

JPRS-LAM-86-004

10 January 1986

Latin America Report

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

10 January 1986

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ECLA Predicts Lowered Prices, Higher Interest on Exports (EL MERCURIO, 9 Nov 85)	1
Windward Islands' Banana Exports Show Increase for 1984 (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 2 Nov 85)	3

BAHAMAS

Reportage, Comment on PLP Annual Convention (THE FREEPORT NEWS, 30 Oct, 1 Nov 85; THE TRIBUNE, 1, 2 Nov 85)	4
Attack on Pindling Actions, Editorial	4
Roker Appeal to Pindling, by Marcia Bethell	6
Roker on Immigration	8
Pindling Keynote Address, by Anthony Forbes	8
Pindling Thanks for Support, by Anthony Forbes	10
Appointment of Task Forces, by Anthony Forbes	12
Further Comment on PLP Annual Convention (THE TRIBUNE, 4, 7 Nov 85; THE FREEPORT NEWS, 4, 5 Nov 85)	14
Review of Proceedings, by Colin Higgins	14
Attorney General's Address	15
Family Islands' Future, by Marcia Bethell	17
Chairman's Press Release	19
Call for Economic Plan, by Marcia Bethell	20
Criticism of Pindling Government Comes From Various Quarters (THE FREEPORT NEWS, various dates; THE TRIBUNE, 7 Nov 85)	22
Chamber President's Remarks	22
Ex-PLP Official's Views, by Simon Lewis	24
RNM Rally, by Colin Higgins	26
TUC Political Plans, by Simon Lewis	28

Pindling Introduces 'Balanced' Budget for 1986 (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 25 Nov 85)	31
FNM Action Group Criticizes Policy Toward Haitians (THE TRIBUNE, 22 Nov 85)	34
Government Warns Against Flying Without Permits, Licenses (THE TRIBUNE, 13 Nov 85)	36
Civil Aviation Department Will Become Corporation (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 13 Nov 85)	37

BARBADOS

St John Seeks Consultative Mechanism for CBI (Reudon Eversley; CANA, 24 Nov 85)	39
Comments Indicate Thaw in Ties With Trinidad-Tobago (DAILY NATION, 19 Nov 85; SUNDAY SUN, 1 Dec 85)	41
Union Views	41
Conciliatory Note From St John	41
Police Taking New Initiatives in Fight on Drug Trafficking (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 29 Nov 85)	43
IDB Loan Will Assist Industry, Tourism, Fishing Sectors (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 28 Nov 85)	44
Better Quantity, Quality of Cane Expected Next Year (WEEKEND NATION, 1-2 Nov 85)	45
Public Workers Union Calls for Minister's Resignation (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 3 Dec 85)	46
Briefs	
Unemployment Figures	47
Incidence of Arson	47

BELIZE

Clandestine Publication in North Backs Unity With Mexico (THE REPORTER, 17 Nov 85)	48
British Ambassador Describes Plans for Aid (THE BELIZE TIMES, 17 Nov 85)	49
PUP Involvement With Drug Trafficking Alleged (THE BEACON, 16 Nov 85)	50
Briefs	
New Treasury Head	52
PUP Constituency Meeting	52

CHILE

ICI President Talks With Opposition Members (EFE, 11 Dec 85)	53
Poll Reportedly Shows Pinochet Unpopular (CAUCE, 3-9 Dec 85)	54
MDP Sees 1985 as Bad Year for Human Rights (Santiago Radio Chilena, 10 Dec 85)	55
Labor Leaders Call Wage Hikes Welcome But Inadequate (EL MERCURIO, 14 Nov 85)	57
Military, Church, Political Leaders Condemn Carabinero Death (EL MERCURIO, 13 Nov 85)	59
Nation Supports UK Decision To Leave UNESCO (Carlos Velazco; Santiago Domestic Service, 10 Dec 85) ...	64

DOMINICA

Civil Servants Warned About Ideological Subversion (EXPRESS, 9 Dec 85)	65
---	----

GRENADA

Business Leader Cites Shortcomings Hurting CBI (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 28 Nov 85)	67
Paper Calls for Quick Government Action on Constitution (Editorial; THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 16 Nov 85)	68
Government Forms Council To Draft Development Strategy (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 9 Nov 85)	70
NNP In-Fighting Described, as Convention Nears (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 23 Nov 85)	73
Minister of Labor Alexis Denies 'Resignation' Story (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 16 Nov 85)	76

JAMAICA

Reportage on Visit of Trinidad-Tobago's Prime Minister (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 17 Nov 85; THE DAILY GLEANER, 19 Nov 85)	77
Chambers' UWI Speech	77
Dinner Speeches	78

JLP Holds Annual Conference; Seaga Confronts Issues (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 24 Nov 85; THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Nov 85)	79
Reports on Proceedings	79
Seaga Overview	80
PNP Explains Why It Seeks Elections at This Time (THE DAILY GLEANER, 23 Nov 85)	81
Manley Criticizes JLP for Delaying Local Elections (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Nov 85)	83
Seaga Outlines Proposed Changes in Income Tax System (THE DAILY GLEANER, 27 Nov 85)	84
Other Economic Issues in Spotlight--Prices, Wages (THE DAILY GLEANER, various dates; CANA, 6 Dec 85)	86
Call for Price Cuts	86
Governor General's Appeal	87
New Minimum Wage	87
Teacher Wage Dispute	88
Government-Formed Task Force on Exports To Report Regularly (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 24 Nov 85)	89
Cane Losses Cited; New Uses for Land Proposed (H. G. Helps; THE DAILY GLEANER, 26 Nov 85)	90
PNP Chairman Patterson Discusses Situation of Press (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Nov 85)	91
Briefs	
Media Objectivity Law	93
Parish Protest	93
Youth Program	93
All-Out Alumina Production	93

PERU

Energy Minister on Renegotiation of Oil Contracts (Wilfredo Huaita Nunez; CARETAS, 30 Sep 85)	95
Lima Mayor Discusses 'Revolutionary Violence' (EXPRESO, 1 Dec 85)	101
Navy Manufactures Machineguns, Rifle Grenades (Lima Panamericana Television Network, 9 Dec 85)	102

Briefs	
Governmental Appointments	103
Social Security System Reorganized	103
Interior, Defense Budgets Denounced	104
Workers Demand Job Security	104
Official Visits To Arrange Summit	104

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

Bank Report Shows 1984 GDP Growth of 4.1 Percent (THE DAILY GLEANER, 18 Nov 85)	106
--	-----

ST LUCIA

Josie, Odlum May Patch Up SLP, PLP Differences (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 2 Nov 85)	107
Josie Press Release	107
PLP Organ's Report, by Nicholas Joseph	108
PLP Plans Party Congress To Start 19 January 1986 (CRUSADER, 16 Nov 85)	110
Poverty Situation To Be Studied by National Groups (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 16 Nov 85)	111
Odlum Calls on Unions To Protest Compton Statement (CRUSADER, 9 Nov 85)	113
PLP Organ Reports Compton Criticism of Minister (CRUSADER, 9 Nov 85)	114
National Youth Council To Be Formally Launched (CRUSADER, 16 Nov 85)	115
Ex-Teachers Union Leader Offers To Withdraw Resignation (CRUSADER, 2 Nov 85)	117
Report on Economy for Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 1985 (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 9 Nov 85)	119
Government Acts on Foreign Exchange, Then Backs Down (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 9, 16 Nov 85)	121
Announcement of New Measures	121
Successful Protests, by David Vitalis	122
Criticism of Government 'Confusion', Editorial	123

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Drugs Are One Concern in New Fishing Pact With Venezuela (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates; EXPRESS, 27 Nov, 3 Dec 85)	125
U.S., Caracas Roles, by Kit Roxburgh	125
Plans for Further Talks, by Ria Taitt	127
Pact's Provisions, by Kit Roxburgh	128
Joint Commission	131
Commission Functions	132
Sales to Venezuela	133
GUARDIAN's Assessment, Editorial	134
Opposition Asks Chambers To Reconvene Parliament (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 7 Dec 85)	135
Paper Assails Government Inclination To Withhold Information (Editorial; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 2 Dec 85)	136
ONR Women Hit Government on Mottley Incident, Other Issues (EXPRESS, 26 Nov 85)	138
Government's Handling of Mottley Shooting Criticized (EXPRESS, 2 Dec 85; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 4 Dec 85)	139
Disdain for Press, Public; Editorial	139
Robinson Call for Explanation	141
Problems Within PNM, Role of Cabinet Assessed (Clevon Raphael; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 1 Dec 85)	142
Opposition Leaders Comment on Elections, Policies (EXPRESS, various dates; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 1 Dec 85)	146
Panday on NAR Strategy	146
Robinson on Local Government	147
Robinson on Private Sector	147
Election Prediction	148
Bias Toward Tobago Assembly, by Compton Delph	149
Caroni Sugar Workers Impose 'Work-To-Rule' (Mikey Mahabir; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 23 Nov 85)	150
Union Voices Concern Over Climate Of Industrial Relations (EXPRESS, 29 Nov 85)	151
Early End to DEWD for '85 Sparks Violent Protest (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 Nov 85)	152

Favorable Trade Figures Registered So Far in '85	
(CANA, 22, 23 Nov 85; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 29 Nov 85)	154
Doubled Surplus	154
CARICOM Totals, by Debra Ransome	154
6-Month Figures	155
Union Leader Warns Employers Group of Trouble Ahead	
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 6 Dec 85; EXPRESS, 9 Dec 85)	156
Call for 'More Democracy'	156
Anti-OWTU Moves, by Heather Hollingsworth	157
Paper Sees Merit in U.S. Suggestions on Divestment	
(Editorial; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 7 Dec 85)	159
Text of Robinson Speech to Trinidad Chamber of Commerce	
(SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 8 Dec 85)	160
Briefs	
New Envoy to UK	164
Loan for UK Exports	164
Union Unity	164
PNM Anti-Drug Campaign	165

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ECLA PREDICTS LOWERED PRICES, HIGHER INTEREST ON EXPORTS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Nov 85 pp A-1, A-12

[Text] The executive secretary of ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America], Norberto Gonzalez, predicted a reduction in the trade surpluses of the countries in the region this year and an eventual increase in the proportion of interest payments compared to exports.

In a press conference that he and economist Andres Bianchi held, the international official released the "1985 Economic Panorama for Latin America" based on preliminary figures for the first 6 months. It covers seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

Gonzalez indicated that there will be a 9-percent drop in the value of exports this year which contrasts with the increase of 10.8 percent recorded last year. He attributed this to the sharp drop in the prices of our basic exports.

He said that the value of exports had been going down in past years but this year was worse. In the first 7 months of 1985, the international prices of seven basic products went down 10.5 to 36 percent: sugar, fishmeal, corn, soybean, cotton, lead, and wool. The price of copper went up 3.7 percent but this did not compensate for the 13.4-percent drop in 1984.

"Imports are apparently going to remain the same. Therefore, if exports drop, there will be a major reduction in the trade surplus of the region."

He added that net interest payments will go down because of the drop in interest rates. However, "the lower interest will not compensate for the drop in the trade surplus."

He indicated that the current deficit will probably increase this year to \$9 billion instead of going down like it did in the last 2 years from \$41 billion to \$2.6 billion.

He added: "The proportion of interest payments compared to exports will probably increase since interest will go down the equivalent of 6 percent and the value of exports will go down about 9 percent."

As to the increase of the PGB [Gross Domestic Product] for the region, Gonzalez indicated that these figures cannot be released yet. However, the preliminary analysis indicates that there could be an increase of 3 percent.

Referring to debt renegotiation with private banks, the ECLA representative stated that, in general, there has been some improvement in conditions.

He mentioned the margin based on the LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offered Rate] collected for credits renegotiated this year. It went down from 2.25 in the first renegotiation to 1.38 in the third. Amortization periods increased to 10 and 14 years (Mexico). The grace period went down from 5 years in the second renegotiation to 3 years in the third. (Chile has a longer grace period than average, 6 years.) Renegotiation commissions will not be collected, with a few exceptions.

However, he announced that there was an unfavorable development in the reduction of additional credits granted by the banks. He stated: "The banks are reluctant to increase their commitments in Latin America. They only gave additional credits of \$4.75 billion which is lower than past renegotiations and much lower than the interests that the countries have to pay in 1985."

He explained that the above means that "for the fourth consecutive year, there will be a net transfer of resources from Latin America to private international banking."

He also maintained that the conditions in the new bank credits are worse than the renegotiated amortizations, with shorter terms and the collection of commissions.

He indicated that there were some major innovations that constitute a precedent for future renegotiations.

For example, he pointed out that "the banks did not always demand an adjustment agreement with the IMF as a prior requirement for renegotiation as they had in the past. Venezuela did not sign an agreement with the IMF and Mexico did not renew the agreement that it had signed. In Uruguay's case, the refinanced amortizations are for a longer term than the credit contingent with the IMF."

7717

CSO: 3348/205

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

WINDWARD ISLANDS' BANANA EXPORTS SHOW INCREASE FOR 1984

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 2 Nov 85 p 6

[Text]

WINDWARD Islands banana exports increased by 16.2 percent in 1984, according to WINBAN's Annual Report recently released by the four-island banana grouping.

The report notes that most of the increase occurred in the first three quarters of last year with only a marginal increase in the fourth quarter.

With the exception of Grenada, the report states, all the islands recorded an increase in total production over the 1983 levels. However, the level of increase that was anticipated around the second quarter was not realised and the over estimation of production for that quarter, particularly with respect to St. Lucia led to an over supply of shipping space.

With respect to 'out-shipped fruit,' the WINBAN Report states that about 1,244.67 tonnes of fruit valued at \$977,600 was outshipped in 1984, 85 percent of which was in the first quarter. The report adds that St. Lucia accounted for about 71 percent or eight hundred and eighty-three (883) tonnes of all the outshipped fruit.

The breakdown of banana exports from the Windwards in 1984 were as follows:-

Quarter	Dominica	St. Lucia	St. Vincent	Grenada	Total
Jan - Mar	8,505	16,765	8,451	2,220	35,941
Apr - Jun	9,602	18,196	8,844	2,329	38,971
Jul - Sept	7,603	15,108	7,667	1,824	32,202
Oct - Dec	5,935	15,554	8,055	2,215	31,759
Totals (in tonnes)	31,645	65,623	33,017	8,588	138,873

However in the final analysis it is the growers directly involved in the production process who are expected to benefit first.

The report does note that "it would no doubt be difficult for the grower to reconcile the simultaneous occurrence of the phenomena of increasing production and decreasing average revenue, particularly in the longer run. Yet, increased production is essential for the long run viability of the industry not only on the island level, but also at the regional, Windward Islands level."

On a more encouraging note the report says that "the 1983 winter market situation left the industry in a depressed state with sub-economic prices and large volume of left-back fruit. That problem seemed to have been resolved in 1984 and hopefully for the future."

In terms of economic performance, the report says 1984 will be recorded as a sub-normal year.

The Windward Islands Banana Growers' Association (WINBAN) is now in its 27th year of existence. WINBAN is registered in all four Windward Islands namely: St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Dominica. WINBAN looks after the well-being of banana growers in the islands and among other things undertakes research work in connection with the cultivation, production, treatment, marketing and shipping of bananas.

The total of 138,873 tonnes compares with 119,323 tonnes in 1983. According to the report: "1984 was not a very good year from the point of view of prices or average earnings to the Associations or to the growers but the increase in total in production meant increased foreign exchange and other benefits to the island's economies."

/12851

CSO: 3298/196

BAHAMAS

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON PLP ANNUAL CONVENTION

Attack on Pindling Actions

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 30 Oct 85 p 2

[Editorial: "An Unselfish Act"]

[Text]

Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has decided; come what may that he is and will remain the only leader of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party...and there are those in the party who, blinded and guided by their own twisted principles or lack thereof are determined to ensure his continued misrule in the face of all evidence which points to any wrong doing on the part of the one they hail as Chief.

There are those of us who believe that at the end of the day good will triumph over evil but in the current battle apparent within the PLP, the forces representing the corrupt side of man appear to have held sway over the other principled half.

Having resigned from the high office of Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Government leader in the House of Assembly in October 1984 because his conscience would not permit him to continue as a Cabinet Minister in Sir Lynden's Government, Mr. Hanna last night also stepped down from the office of Deputy leader of the Progressive Liberal Party. In doing so he issued a warning to his fellow party members attending the 30th annual convention currently in session at the Holiday Inn, Paradise Island. He warned that they were embarked on a journey which will spell the end of the rule enjoyed by the party for the past 18 years. (See story page 1).

Mr. Hanna revealed for the first time last night, that he suggested to his friend from boyhood and his leader in Government, prior to handing in his resignation, that "both he and I ought to resign our offices and assist the party in selecting a new leadership."

Sir Lynden accepted Mr. Hanna's resignation and responded further by quickly getting rid of all those who may have been thinking along the same lines as Mr. Hanna to the point where he now rules a reduced Cabinet in a government where he is undisputed king of the mountain - right or wrong.

Mr. Hanna's admonishment to the party in convention merits consideration - though we doubt there are many left with sufficient backbone to say so. He said in part that the PLP has an awesome responsibility to ensure that "our movement is not sacrificed upon the altar of selfishness, greed, arrogance and the mistaken belief that right or wrong the Bahamian people will stick with and continue to support us."

"We cannot and must not allow all that we worked for, stood for and achieved to go down the drain through and by the selfish acts of a small clique who operate for their end and at the expense of us and our country.

"It is high time that we deal with issues arising from the Commission of Inquiry report as they will not go away. Indeed the party has yet to take a position on the report or the report from the National Drug Task Force.

"We must not forget that the PLP government appointed both these bodies and the Government has publicly stated that it has accepted both reports. What then is the position of the PLP for PLP's have a right to know?"

Yes, indeed. The PLP and the nation have a right to know government's position on the matters raised in the Commission hearings. These issues are well known so we won't repeat them with the exception of noting that one Minister in Mr. Pindling Government may have conspired to defraud Customs and the Government revenue in the matter of the importation of an expensive BMW car. The Commission found he "corruptly accepted" from a known drug dealer.

That's serious.

But it is of no more import in the present unprincipled political climate, as the fact that by his silence on these issues and his continued unabashed tenacity in clinging to power Sir Lynden has besmirched the good office of Prime Minister.

So long as we have people like Bishop K.D. Josey who last Sunday proclaimed that God ordained Sir Lynden to be our leader, we will be burdened with glory seeking and power hunger demigods of the kind that Mr. Hanna has found it necessary to divorce himself from.

This same man who the people once hailed as Moses, has we firmly believe, betrayed the trust of those he leads.

Mr. Hanna's actions are unselfish. Can we say the same for Sir Lynden's ?

Roker Appeal to Pindling

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell: "Roker Warns Pindling: 'It's your last Chance'"]

[Text] National Security Minister Loftus Roker, in the most emotional address delivered at the 30th annual PLP Convention, last night urged Prime Minister Pindling to disassociate himself from any situation or person whose activity would make it appear he condoned "shady activity."

Mr Roker also warned Prime Minister Pindling that this was his last chance to wipe out corruption and life the Bahamas and its people above "all the problems, beyond all the clouds for a bright tomorrow."

"For the first time since this party came to power in 1967, I am satisfied that you are the undisputed leader of this party. In the past you were leader only when we wanted to find somebody to blame for our mistakes now, of course, you cannot in my judgment escape either the credit or the blame. You will now need more than easy speeches to comfort the Bahamian people. From now on solid performance is the only thing which will count," Mr Roker told the Prime Minister.

"Your position on important national matters must be unequivocal. If the well-being of the Bahamian people is to be safeguarded you must cast off all, and I repeat all, obstacles which tend to drag us into the mud and move resolutely into the future to open a new dawn for our young and not so young, who for years waited so patiently for the complete fulfilment of their dreams," the outspoken Minister said.

"My brother Prime Minister you must now disassociate yourself from any activity or persons whose association would attempt to mislead the public that you approve of any shady activity in anyway," Mr Roker said.

He stressed that the PLP party has an obligation not to fail the Bahamian people. Mr Roker said that in his address to the PLP Convention in 1974 he told Bahamians that corruption was rocking the PLP to its very foundations, but he believed the Prime Minister had the courage to "wipe out the corruption."

"I said then that I believe the Prime Minister has the courage to wipe out corruption rocking

this nation. I still believe that tonight," Mr Roker said. "You, my brother Prime Minister, must not fail us now."

Mr Roker said the Prime Minister has been referred to as the modern-day "Moses" by the Bahmian people. He said he also believes this to be true but said that, like Moses, the Prime Minister is not a God. He is human and is "subject to all the weaknesses of men."

"Moses could not do it alone and our leader cannot do it alone. Moses is a man, not God. Our Leader is a man, not God and he is subject to all the weaknesses of men, he is far from perfect," Mr Roker said.

On the subject of drug trafficking, Mr Roker admitted that until recently drug trafficking and its use by Bahamians were not seriously addressed by any segment of the leadership of the PLP party.

"Here again I am talking about the total leadership, the political, religious and civic. Many people thought it was an easy way to make some extra money. And while everyone claimed publicly that they would not buy or sell the stuff they did not care so much that

others did it. Later they changed their position slightly, saying it was all right to traffic in it but do not sell it to Bahamians. I take the view that drug trafficking and its use by Bahamians is a very serious matter and further it can destroy the soul of our nation," Mr Roker said.

"It matters not that only a small percentage of our people are involved in it. It does not matter. If we are not careful we may wipe out a whole generation of Bahamians. The enemies of Bahamian people have seized on the disclosures of the NBC report to pull off the coup of the century. The biggest drug traffickers in the Bahamas and outside have joined forces to hoodwink the Bahamian public and tell the world that the PLP government is involved in drug trafficking. They almost got away with it. Can you imagine that!"

Mr Roker said that in the 1982 general elections drug trafficking was not a political issue.

"And for good reason. The FNM could not make it an issue nor could they charge the PLP with being involved in drug trafficking. They knew full well that the big drug traffickers were supporting them. PLP's and FNM's know today that I waged a relentless campaign against the drug trade. I stated in my election campaign in 1982 that I did not want the supporters of drugs or drug traffickers to support me at all. If you don't believe me go in Andros and find out," Mr Roker said.

He further claimed that since the Commission of Inquiry report there has been a lot of "propaganda" circulating, but said "no evidence was led before the Commission, linking the Prime Minister of the Bahamas with drug trafficking or facilitating drug traffickers. The report of the commissioners, did not, in any way suggest that the Prime Minister was

involved in drug trafficking. Yet those who would seek to lead this nation are prepared to convince this nation and the world that the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has been found by the Commission to be involved in some way with drug trafficking. Any such interpretation of that report is dishonest and anyone trying to tell such a story is not worthy of being called a Bahamian," Mr Roker said.

Mr Roker said drug trafficking and its "evil lawlessness" endangers civilized nations and governments all over the world.

Mr Roker said that for more than a decade the Bahamas has been faced with the casualties of drug addiction. However, he stressed that unless there is "international cooperation" drug traffickers will move from one country to the next to continue their trade.

For over a decade we have been besieged by this plague. The United States, recognizing that it was going to be destroyed by drugs began an effort to crackdown on these merchants of death. When this happened these despicable men moved their operations next door to the Bahamas to our islands when we started encountering the problems."

Mr Roker said the drug problem can be fought on two fronts. Firstly, through international legal cooperation, whereby those persons involved in the trade would be brought to justice. And secondly educational programmes, to try and bring about an end to drug abuse.

"We have a beautiful country, the envy of the world, but if we are not careful we will destroy our country and our children along with it," Mr Roker warned. "The lust and greed for money and what it can get us is causing us to lose our reason," Mr Roker warned.

Roker on Immigration

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 1 Nov 85 p 1

[Excerpt] According to Minister Roker, "Some Bahamians believe that Haitians should be allowed in the Bahamas because they provide a reservoir of cheap labour. What some Bahamians want is a pool of cheap labour, or slave labour you must abandon that idea."

He declared that "never will slave conditions be allowed to exist in this country as long as I am part of this government...you will pay a decent wage for your labour, and if you then cannot find sufficient Bahamians you will be allowed to recruit non-Bahamians, who must also be paid a decent wages."

Because a man is unemployed in his own country," said the Minister, "does not give us the right to use him as a slave so that he might eat. Because a man is unemployed, cannot find work in his own country, is no reason for us to use him as a slave in order for him to get something to eat."

He emphasised that "the Immigration laws in The Bahamas must be obeyed, and if we do not want to obey them, then we must change them."

The Minister told the convention that "non-Bahamians will only be allowed to work in the Bahamas where Bahamians are not available or not available in sufficient numbers... the Bahamas government will not allow the reintroduction of slavery in any form in the Bahamas."

The Minister warned that "any non-Bahamian holding high legal or judicial office in the Bahamas will not be allowed private practice in the Bahamas, except in exceptional circumstances... that has been so since I came home from school in 1962...every lawyer, black and white, passed a resolution at the Bar council to that effect."

He stated that as a 'matter of national policy, the Government of The Bahamas will use every legitimate means at its disposal to expel all illegal immigrants from this country.... any employers found employing illegal immigrants will be prosecuted and may find themselves unable to obtain work permits agains."

Pindling Keynote Address

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "PM Denies Hanna Asked Him to Quit as Leader"]

[Text] PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling denied Friday that former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna had suggested, after the recent Commission of Inquiry, that they both resign and hand the leadership to others. Sir Lynden denied he was ever "asleep or drunk at the wheel" during his service to the party or the nation.

Delivering the keynote address closing the working session of the PLP's 30th annual convention, the Prime

Minister told thousands of hushed delegates and supporters that he was "a bit surprised at some" of Mr Hanna's remarks in a speech Tuesday declining the deputy leadership of the party after 25 years in the post.

The Prime Minister also promised PLPs and National Security Minister Loftus Roker - who warned Sir Lynden Thursday that this was his last chance to wipe out corruption - that he will not "fail" or "disappoint" them. "I shall instead prove myself worthy of

the confidence of this party as I move now to lead our nation to higher ground on the way ahead," he said.

After paying "sincere tribute" to Mr Hanna, his friend of 40 years for his contribution to the development of the party and country, the Prime Minister assured the nation that the PLP ship will not only remain seaworthy but it will remain on course.

"I was a bit surprised at some of his remarks on Tuesday evening but I suppose that in times like these there is a tendency to hang on to the hyperboles and yield to the temptation of overstatement," the Prime Minister said of Mr Hanna's remarks.

"Nevertheless, I must make it clear, fellow delegates, that at no time during our political service to our party or our nation was I ever asleep or drunk at the wheel," the Prime Minister told the crowd, which packed the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel, Paradise Island.

"I was also surprised when, in the presence of others in September last year, he first informed me of his intention to resign but never before or after that did he ever say anything that would have led me to believe that he thought both of us should resign and pass the leadership on to others," he said.

"It is difficult to understand how that could have been the case when it is remembered that at last year's convention he again offered for the position of Deputy Leader of our great party and accepted that position even when I had been returned, without objection from anyone, to the post of Party Leader," Sir Lynden added.

"But such is life and that is behind us now," said the Prime Minister.

Mr Hanna, a PLP Deputy Leader for 25 years and Deputy Prime Minister for 17 years, told the convention Tuesday night: "It wasn't long ago that I told the National General Council of the party that if ever I had a hint that I no longer held the confidence of a reasonable number of PLPs, I would

step down as Deputy Leader - for this is my view and it is the unwritten principle for which I stand."

"A Leader or Deputy Leader must have the unqualified confidence of almost all his colleagues," Mr Hanna said. "This is precisely why I suggested to the Leader prior to my resignation that both he and I ought to have resigned our offices and assist the party in selecting a new leadership."

Mr Hanna resigned as Deputy Prime Minister on October 8, 1984, over "fundamental differences" with the Prime Minister, making a "choice between right and wrong" following internal unrest in the PLP over allegations of corruption in Government, revealed in evidence before the Commission of Inquiry.

And on Tuesday, Mr Hanna declined re-nomination to the post of PLP Deputy Leader, giving up his last stronghold in the party and making Sir Lynden "undisputed" Leader.

"Tonight," the Prime Minister told the convention, "I wish to rise above that and pay a sincere tribute to my friend who, for the many years, laboured in the vineyard as Deputy Leader of our great party and Deputy Prime Minister of our nation."

"Neither this party nor I will forget the great contribution he has made to the development of the Progressive Liberal Party and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas," he said.

"When I reflect on all the miles and all the months and all the memories we have shared I feel enriched by that association I have had and benefitted from," the Prime Minister said.

"I wish to assure all within the sound of my voice that the PLP ship shall not only remain seaworthy but it shall also remain on course," he declared.

He then referred to the address of National Security Minister Loftus Roker to the convention the previous night.

"It was for me, as I sat and listened to him, an inspiring and deeply moving experience," he told delegates. "It was, I think, the uncompromising honesty, the crystalline sincerity and the

wise counsels of his speech that warmed our hearts and lifted our thoughts to higher ground."

"There was no beating around the bush as some of us are sometimes prone to do. There was no talking in riddles as some of us are sometimes wont to do. He got straight to the point and, as always, said exactly what was on his mind - the plain, simple, unvarnished truth," he said.

He told the convention that Mr Roker had said Thursday night that the party's enemies outside and inside came close to capturing the country and that the National Security Minister was right.

"We counter-attacked just when they thought they had us pinned down, beat them back, and got another chance," he said. "But they are still at work and still against us and we will hear from them again in 1985 and 1986."

"Therefore it may well be my last chance and our last chance to prove our party equal to the challenge of saving our country and our race from the ignominy of defeat at the hands of our enemies," he said.

"Happily, this convention

has brought us closer together than we have been in years. Happily, this convention has made us stronger and more determined than we have been in years. Happily, this convention has given us a clearer sense of vision and purpose than we have had in years. Happily, this convention has demonstrated our ability to captivate and inspire young and old, learned and unlearned," the Prime Minister said.

"I want to thank Loftus for his moving and eloquent expressions of faith and confidence in my leadership, and, after all that has happened, his confirmation of his willingness to hold up my hand until the setting of the sun," he said.

"I want him to know and I want you to know that I have no intention of failing him or failing you. I will embrace the challenge that he has set before me and I promise him and I promise you that I will neither fail nor disappoint you, that I shall instead prove myself worthy of the confidence of this party as I move now to lead our nation to higher ground on the way ahead," the Prime Minister said.

Pindling Thanks For Support

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "LO Says He Ain't Got to go -- After Reelection (at PLP Convention)"]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling declared Friday night that if there were PLPs who honestly felt he had lost the moral authority to govern, they should have objected to his nomination on Tuesday to be returned as Leader on a point of principle, matter of conscience or act of integrity.

However, the Prime Minister said he is aware that because he has been returned as Leader again without a dissenting voice, does not prove that he has the "unqualified support" of every PLP in the nation or delegate in his audience.

But he said it does suggest that those who shouted loudly

in the market place about integrity and moral authority, were doing so merely to appease their public relations constituents and/or satisfy their own political ambition and not to impress a point of moral conscience upon the party.

The Prime Minister thanked delegates for returning him unopposed as Party Leader Tuesday as he delivered his second and keynote address, officially closing the business session of the party's 30th annual convention in the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel.

"Once again, we have disappointed the pundits of doom

and dismayed the purveyors of ill-will," he said. "The detractors of progress had rendered their analyses; those who lurk in the political shadows had sounded the trumpet of defeat; summer soldiers and sunshine patriots were on the march; our party, they thought, was headed for apocalypse now," he said.

"In the end reason prevailed over emotions; our love for our party proved stronger than our attachment to personalities; and our minor battleground gave way to a more picturesque commonground thus leading us to higher ground," the Prime Minister said.

"Beyond question, this has been one of the greatest conventions this party and this nation has ever seen," he said.

He said that last year when the party met in convention, the PLP ship was "rocking amidst the tempest of the Commission of Inquiry and the accusatory billows were tossing high.

"Indeed, the PLP ship was rocking and rolling from side to side," he said. "Despite this I was nominated for the post of Party Leader and returned unopposed without one dissenting vote and without one abstaining vote."

He said that between the last convention and this one, the Commission of Inquiry has reported, the parliament has debated the Report and the people have discussed it.

He also said that the Public Disclosure Commission and the Courts have rendered their own verdicts on matters that some people thought concerned those two independent and impartial bodies.

"The Free National Movement was exultant at the time. They thought they were on to something big and so declared that I had lost the moral authority to govern," the Prime Minister said. "Even some among us began to sing that tune."

"If they were serious, this convention was the place to test that theory and Tuesday was the time to do so for Tuesday was the day my name was again put in nomination for the post of Party Leader," the Prime Minister said.

"From those who honestly thought that I was unworthy I expected to hear an objection; from those who honestly felt that I had lost the moral authority to govern I expected to hear a dissent; and from those who really were not sure I expected to hear an abstention," he said.

"But I heard nothing," he said. "No one objected; no one dissented. No one abstained - not even on a point of order or on a point of principle - and you returned me unanimously."

"If there were those in this organization who honestly felt that I had lost the moral authority to govern, then it would seem to me that on a point of principle, as a matter of conscience, or as an act of integrity, they should have objected to my nomination," he said.

"I am aware that the fact that I have been returned again this year without a dissenting voice does not prove that I have the unqualified support of every PLP in the nation or every delegate in this auditorium," he said.

"What it does suggest, however, is that those who shouted loudly in the market place about integrity and moral authority, were doing so merely to appease their public relations constituents and or satisfy their own political ambitions and not to impress a point of moral conscience upon their party," he added.

"Bearing this in mind, therefore, you can certainly understand why I feel even more honoured this year than last on your great expression of faith, confidence and trust," he said. "For this, fellow delegates, I am most grateful."

Appointment of Task Forces

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 85 pp 1, 13

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "PM Appoints Five 'Task Forces' to Point Way Ahead"]

[Text] THE PLP has established five task forces to consider in depth proposals made during this week's "landmark" convention and to make concrete recommendations either for a platform plank or for immediate implementation, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling revealed Friday night.

The Prime Minister said that task forces, whose members included a majority of the speakers during the convention, are to deal with health care, administration of justice, banking and financial institutions, business development and sports and recreation.

In his second and keynote address closing the 30th annual convention at the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel, Paradise Island, the Prime Minister also pledged not to "rest" or "wait" until drug trafficking and drug abuse in the Bahamas ceases to be the scourge that it is.

Using the convention's theme: "The Way Ahead," Prime Minister Pindling said that as the party moves ahead to the 1990s, its guiding precept must be: "Forward ever, backward never."

"We who have spent decades building this country with our minds and our deeds cannot let others destroy it by their words and misdeeds," he said. "We who have toiled in the heat of the day can never surrender to those who have always sat under a shade. We who have taken a wilderness and transformed it into a shining city must not abdicate our right to a place in the sun."

He said the continuous improvement of the quality of life will depend on how successfully we can blend the new ideas with the old and forge new policies and programmes for government implementation.

"This blending could take place if we do not allow the dialogue begun here this week to stop," he said. "This blend-

ing process could take place if we had a mechanism for the continuation of discussion, exploration and refinement from which new policies would emerge."

"These new policies and programmes ought properly to be embodied in a new, dynamic and challenging platform. I should like very much to try to bring this about so, in consultation with our Party Chairman, it has been agreed to establish the following task forces to consider in depth the proposals made during this landmark 30th National General Convention and make concrete recommendations either for a platform plank or for their immediate implementation," he said.

He said the Task Force on Health Care is to develop a Position Paper and make recommendations on the delivery, administration and funding of primary, secondary and tertiary health care in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the other Family Islands, having full regard to the needs of the handicapped.

Northern Long Island/San Salvador MP Philip Smith is the Chairman while other members are Sen Clare Rose Hall King, Dr Franklyn Walkine, lawyer Luther McDonald and Young Liberal Joseph Curry.

The Task Force on the Administration of Justice is to develop a Position Paper and make recommendations for the improvement of the system of administration of justice in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the other Family Islands, the protection of the rights of the individual, offences against the person as opposed to offences against property, drug trafficking and the abuse of the Quieting of Titles Act.

It is headed by Chairman Mr James Moultrie, MP for Rock Sound, Eleuthera, with lawyers Vincent Peet and Thomas

Evans, Sen Ruby Ann Darling and Young Liberal Paulette Adderley as members.

The Task Force on Banking and Financial Institutions is to develop a Position Paper on the advisability of and make recommendations on the development of a Bahamian-owned banking and insurance sector and the further orderly development of businesses offering financial services such as a stock exchange.

Fort Charlotte MP Valentine Grimes has been named Chairman with other members including banker Reno Brown, accountant Philip Steven Smith, bank manager Alexander Reckley and Young Liberal Miss Allison Christie.

The Task Force on Business Development is to develop a Position Paper and make recommendations for the orderly expansion of business opportunities and on the advisability of Business Encouragement legislation like Industries Encouragement legislation with due regard to the involvement of women and young persons in business and, in this regard, consider and make recommendations on the necessary amendment of the Companies Act and the Commonage Act.

Grants Town MP Bradley Roberts chairs the task force whose other members are Mrs Judy Munroe, former Chamber of Commerce President, accountant Kingsley Munroe, businesswoman Mrs Sandra Sealey and lawyer Hartman Longley.

The Task Force on Sports and Recreation is to develop a Position Paper and make recommendations on the orderly development and funding of sports and recreational facilities and programmes and, in particular, the inauguration of a mammoth-scale sports festival which would become the national Olympics of the Bahamas.

It is chaired by St John's MP Peter Bethel and co-chaired by St Michael's MP George Mackey with Dr Bernard Nottage, Samuel (Marathon Man) Williams and Bertram (Cowboy) Musgrove as members.

He said that the convention has discussed the drug trafficking and drug abuse problem and that according to the US State Department, nine major drug-producing countries,

Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru and Thailand together produced about 140,500 metric tons of narcotics drugs in 1984.

He said a recent survey showed that those countries, despite being in receipt of American aid in the millions of dollars, are continuing to produce record crops and are not eradicating their drug fields.

Noting that he fully appreciated how difficult an eradication programme could be for a country, the Prime Minister said he understood that such a programme could not only eradicate the drug crop but also a whole agricultural economy.

"No way, you see, has yet been found to eradicate marijuana, poppy or coca plants laid out in the middle of banana or coconut or sugar-cane plantations without, at the same time eradicating the banana, the coconut or the sugar-cane," he said.

"And even if that could be done, no one is yet sure how long it will take for something to grow back in a field once that field is wiped out to eliminate drugs," the Prime Minister said.

He said he stated all of that to illustrate the point that the United States has roughly five per cent of the world's population but it consumes almost 75 per cent of the world's production of narcotics drugs.

"So, as we cooperate with the Americans on law enforcement and interdiction, we are also encouraging them to go right to the source on both ends," he said. "If drugs are not produced then the drug traffickers would not have anything to trans-ship."

"If there are no drugs to trans-ship, there would be little drug abuse in the Bahamas. If the leaders of producing countries cannot stop drugs from leaving, and if the leaders of the major consumer countries cannot stop it from entering, then I am sure that every sensible Bahamian understands my difficulty in stopping it from passing through," he said.

"Despite these difficulties, however, I pledge to you tonight that we will not rest nor wait until drug trafficking and drug abuse in the Bahamas ceases to be the scourge that it is," he said.

BAHAMAS

FURTHER COMMENT ON PLP ANNUAL CONVENTION

Review of Proceedings

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Colin Higgins: "Convention Branded 'Un-PLP-ish'"]

[Text]

"UN-PLP-ish" is how one member of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) describes the recently concluded PLP national convention in which for the first time a slate of unopposed candidates for party offices has been elected.

Meanwhile, at the Saturday night banquet at which party officers were installed following the week-long PLP convention newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and unopposed party Deputy Leader Clement Maynard turned to the band and said: "Hit it fellows" before breaking into a stanza of "I just called to say I love you."

The Stevie Wonder song gained popularity among supporters of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling around the time of the 1984 PLP convention when the local radio station said persons were requesting the tune be played for the Government head.

Immediately before entertaining them in song, Mr Maynard - who, after Arthur Hanna rejected a nomination for deputy leader, thanked him for avoiding a fight - told those attending the banquet that he is unapologetically a Pindling supporter.

Former Deputy Prime Minister and party Deputy Leader Hanna was not present at the banquet Saturday night.

One observer said that up to the time when the song of affection was sung for Sir Lynden, some diners - he speculated they might be Hanna supporters - appeared not to

know whether they should be enjoying themselves or not.

After Deputy Prime Minister Maynard entertained in song, "pandemonium" broke out, the banquet observer said.

Then PLP Holy Cross MP Charles Carter got up and sang a bar or two.

One person reportedly said they did not think they would ever see Mr Maynard so informal.

PLP Chairman Sean McWeeney said today that if last week's convention was not the best ever, it was certainly one of the best.

He called the 1985 convention "serious," "sober" and "rich" in content.

Another convention observer said that the Polaris Hall, Holiday Inn convention venue on Paradise Island was only half full on most nights.

It was almost full Monday night - when Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling delivered his first address to delegates - and full on Friday night, when Sir Lynden gave the keynote address. But the convention hall experienced sparse attendance on most of the other nights, the convention observer noted.

It was also noted that speaker after speaker made a point of saying what a great convention it was to reassure themselves and their listeners, because they knew that there was trouble in their ranks.

Party Chairman Sean McWeeney said that the usual "rah-rah" or "stump" speeches were de-emphasised this year.

Emphasis was put on the

convention theme: the "Way Ahead," he said, adding that a "fresh view" was presented.

All left the convention in an exultant mood. "The resurgence was almost palpable," Mr McWeeney commented.

"People really felt good."

The other convention observer, however, said that people generally did not feel it was a good convention but they still see Prime Minister Pindling as their only hope.

He observed that this is the first time since the Progressive Liberal Party came to power 1967 that contenders for the various party offices have been elected unopposed.

"This is just un-PLP-ish," the observer, a PLP member himself, said.

In the past, it might have been that a slate of candidates was returned unchanged but there was always someone who felt they could do just as good a job as another, resulting in elections in which candidates for the various offices faced opposition.

Delegates realised that the party had been through some problems but "this year we turned the corner," Mr McWeeney said.

Delegates left the 1985 Progressive Liberal Party convention with a "tremendous sense of optimism" and "hope for the future" the PLP Chairman said.

PLP supporters left in a "vey

upbeat frame of mind."

Reports that Prime Minister Pindling suggested to delegates during closed sessions that the party could capture 35 parliamentary seats if he got the deputy leader he wanted, have fueled speculation that Arthur Hanna's fall from power was pre-planned.

Reference has also been made to the printed programme for the PLP's 1985 national convention. The first reference to Mr Hanna speaking on Tuesday night lists him as Deputy Leader while a second reference - after the elections had taken place - omits the title. The programme was printed well in advance of the convention. "It was known in advance," said an observer, "and the programme is proof that they planned to dump AD as party leader."

Party Chairman McWeeney maintains that there is nothing "sinister" in the programme's format.

Despite the forced appearance of unity and conviviality, the rift down the centre of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party appears to have taken an ugly turn with Prime Minister Pindling denying that his boyhood friend and long-time political comrade Arthur Hanna ever suggested they both resign in the wake of a Commission of Inquiry into drugs and related corruption - and Mr Hanna's insistence that he did.

Attorney General's Address

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 4 Nov 85 pp 2, 8

[Article: "All not well but PLP Still Best Party to govern Says Adderley"]

[Text]

NASSAU — Attorney-General Paul L. Adderley on Wednesday night cautioned delegates and supporters attending the 30th National General Convention of the Progressive Liberal Party not to themselves. He said "all is not well in this house."

Addressing delegates in the Polaris Hall, Holiday Inn, Mr Adderley said "I do not believe that we are headed for decay and destruction, I do not believe that we are about to lose the next elections, but I do believe that we have to put our house in order and get our act together."

Mr. Adderley's speech came one night after former Deputy

Prime Minister Arthur Hanna said: "We who are in the PLP have an awesome responsibility to ensure that our movement is not sacrificed upon the altar of selfishness, greed, arrogance and the mistaken belief that right or wrong the Bahamian people will stick with and continue to support us".

The Attorney-General admonished the convention not to forget that "for us the real political enemy is the Free National Movement....Isaacs and Wallace-Whitfield and their gang."

"Don't fall for the FNM propaganda," he said, "which

comes from the Isaacs crowd either that they are not one. Isaacs and Wallace-Whitfield are one "Solid as a rock" team of FNM and together they would destroy all of us so that they both could fight over who is going to be Prime Minister.

"Out in the streets the Free National Movement promote their campaign of lies, hate and more hate, fear and distrust. Implicit in it all is the veiled threat of violence. Ten years ago most of their leaders would not have had the courage to call a PLP corrupt; even their conscience would not have allowed it but time and the electorate have changed and the criminally corrupt of 10 years ago now says that he wants to be the jailer. The wicked claim the right to inherit the earth."

Remarking that "all is not well in this house", Mr. Adderley said, however, "I am convinced of one thing, and that is at the end of the day the PLP will emerge from under that cloud stronger and more united; the older among us will have acquired more compassion and the younger more wisdom and patience."

"I have faith in the ultimate good sense of the Bahamian people," he said, to reject the programme of hate and fear for it is the only programme which the (Official Opposition) Free National Movement has or indeed will have.

He urged delegates, meeting in their final day today in the Polaris Hall, to "promote a programme of faith and love, a policy of faith and love, faith in ourselves, love for your country, love for your neighbour, faith in our future."

"But you need courage and stout hearts," said Mr. Adderley "to repel the programme of hate and fear, I believe that we have both. The war between our faith and love and their hate and fear will decide the destiny of our nation. We are at a threshold and sometimes in the not distant future we will have to choose

what kind of country we want for our children.

"We never told anybody that we were a perfect party; all we have said was that the PLP was the best party to govern this country and it still is."

Mr. Adderley said "no one can claim to be more concerned than I am with matters of public morality, character and integrity but even more than matters of personal ethics, am I concerned about the reputation of our country; and where Bahamian go out of their way to assist in the destruction of the reputation of the people of The Bahamas by foreigners who do not and cannot see ourselves with the same eyes as we do, then so far as I am able I have to declare war on them."

He declared that "political power or office has never been to me one of the most important things in life and most of you out there I believe feel the same way."

"The first ancestor that I know of who I have," the Attorney-General stated, "came to The Bahamas over 172 years ago; I am not going anywhere and I hope my three girls don't either, so I have a special kind of contempt for people who slander a whole country."

"Quite apart from the personal attacks upon some of us which are for the most part personal, not institutional, much of which is not true or misrepresented, there is one constant refrain through all these things and that is The Bahamas is a drug country; and this is simply a lie. But this atmosphere of cynicism and antagonism towards politicians spills over into other areas of national life as well."

He noted that "in education", there is some excellent work being done by some very dedicated Bahamian administrators, and Bahamian and non-Bahamian teachers, indeed the majority are non-Bahamian, to whom I wish to pay tribute tonight."

"In spite of many shortcom-

ings in our system," said Mr. Adderley. "they have not disrupted students' education, they have not engaged in lengthy and unnecessary work stoppages and they have tried and succeeded in setting examples of dedication to duty, character and integrity which serves as excellent examples to our students of the kind of person they would wish to follow and take pattern after.

"I do not believe that any nation can build character based upon organized disruption of society or its institutions.

"So long as we are governed attitude. Guilt is personal and knows no party'.

by men, honesty and integrity will be a political issue, but its relative importance is ultimately determined by the moral and the ethics of the total community in which we live. This is not to say that the responsibility for the moral standards does not rest heaviest upon politicians "because public confidence in the integrity of the government is indispensable to faith in democracy". I am reminded of what a justice of the Supreme Court in the United States said on this subject, 'Neither political party has a monopoly of virtue or rascality. Let wrong be exposed and punished but let no partisan ... affect a holier-than-thou

Family Islands' Future

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 85 p 6

[Article by Marcia Bethell: "Local Government 'Necessary for the Islands' (At PLP Convention) -- Says Minister Bethel"]

[Text]

THE ESTABLISHMENT of local government may be included in "the way ahead" for Family Islands Philip Bethel, Minister of Transport and Local government announced during his address to the PLP Convention Thursday night.

Outlining what he foresees as the way ahead for the Family Islands Mr Bethel said that although the subject of local government is not popular with many politicians this move must become a reality.

"The way ahead for the Family Islands will also mean that inhabitants of the islands should be given a greater say in the affairs of their various communities. This takes me to a subject which is not so popular with many of us politicians - the advancement of some form of local government. If the way ahead for the Family Islands is a reality, we must be realistic and take steps to immediately move in this direction," Mr Bethel said.

"Many decisions which are now made in Nassau could and should be made by those local leaders who live and function in

their various communities from year in and year out. The way ahead for the Family Islanders is to have more participation and involvement by those persons who live in the Family Islands."

Mr Bethel said that since the PLP last met in convention the Department of Local Government has created three administrative regions in the Family Islands, namely the Northern, Central and Southern regions.

Members of the northern regions are Coopers Town, Abaco; Marsh Harbour, Abaco; Sandy Point, Abaco; Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama; High Rock, Grand Bahama and Bimini and the Berry Islands.

The Central Region consists of Harbour Island, Governors Harbour and Rock Sound, Eleuthera; Nichols Town, Fresh Creek and Kemp's Bay, Andros.

And in the Southern Region George Town/Ragged Island; The Bight, Cat Island; Clarence Town, Long Island; Colonel Hill, Crooked Island; Abrahams Bay, Mayaguana and

Cockburn Town, San Salvador.

"It is the intention of the Department of Local Government to monitor the administration of these regions very closely, especially with regards to the expenditure of public funds," Mr Bethel said.

"Commissioners in the various regions have been instructed and advised during the past year of the importance of full participation by the local leadership (that is the members of the various boards) in administering the affairs of the district for which he is responsible," the Minister said.

He also urged area engineers and other government personnel from various ministries and government departments to work closer with these members of the various local family island region boards.

Mr Bethel also reported that Family Island Commissioners are now requested to make monthly reports on the activities of the district in which they serve.

"What I am saying, fellow delegates, is that the way ahead for the Family Island is greater involvement by the people who live in the various Family Islands in the running of these various districts," Mr Bethel said.

Referring to the strength of the PLP Party, Mr Bethel said that members should not delude themselves that the party can best serve the people if there is division amongst its members.

"Our party's strength is in our unity, splinter groups, factions and cliques formed to serve self interests ultimately can only be to our detriment. It is time that this foolishness stops."

"There is no reason why we all should see everything the same way all the time. This has never been and never will be a requirement for membership in our party. We welcome diversity of opinions which add to the party's growth. However, much care must be taken, that as we all seek afresh to mold and shape our party's direction, we also recognize the importance of keeping our structure in tact," Mr Bethel said.

The Minister of Transport told the 30th annual convention that over the past 18 years much has been done in the way of national development "overall for Bahamians from every sphere of our society."

"We have built primary

schools, secondary schools; The College of the Bahamas has been established; The Central Bank of the Bahamas; The Bahamas Development Bank; a National Insurance programme; a social services programme; the Mortgage Corporation of the Bahamas; cooperatives and many other institutions. For these, we the PLP and government deserve much credit," Mr Bethel said.

Mr Bethel said that as Minister of Local Government he has travelled to every island in the Bahamas, "sharing thoughts, views and ideas; listening to and talking with Family Islanders to inform our party and this great convention that there remaineth much work to be done. We have barely scratched the surface."

"For far too long we have left undone the areas that make living in many of our family islands at least comfortable for many. The time has come or perhaps long passed when we can no longer take for granted that a mailboat service to the Family Islands once a week or Bahamasair services from Nassau is the answer."

Mr Bethel said that as a political party and the government the PLP must take "bold steps" to address the need to bring more economic activity to other areas of the Bahamas in order to stem the flow of young people from the Family Islands into Nassau and Freeport.

"This can and must be done by the PLP and the government working together with the local leadership in the family islands. Let us rebuild the areas that have fallen into decay. Bring our island communities up to a standard which we can all appreciate," Mr Bethel said.

Mr Bethel also called for a more realistic tourism programme and other economic programmes for the Family Islands to be initiated during the decade of the Eighties.

He further said that a more adequate and efficient air transportation method is needed saying that this requires that the operation of Bahamasair be put on a "solid footing."

"That is precisely what we are now doing and we shall take off with a reorganized airline to deliver to the Bahamian people the kind and scope of air services to meet the needs of our growing economy," Mr Bethel said.

Chairman's Press Release

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 5 Nov 85 p 4

[Article: "'Let Bygones Be Bygones' - McWeeney -- Chairman Expresses Hope Hanna Will Continue to Assist PLP"]

[Text]

NASSAU — Senator Sean McWeeney, National Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party, said Monday in a press statement that he expressed the hope that Arthur D. Hanna, M.P. for Ann's Town and former deputy leader of the PLP, "will in the months ahead assist the party in projecting its message to the Bahamian people in a positive, constructive and uplifting manner and let bygones be bygones."

Mr. McWeeney's news release dealt with public comments made by Mr. Hanna, in which he has taken issue with Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling's denial that Mr. Hanna suggested to him prior to his resignation in September, 1984, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, that both ought to have resigned as leader and deputy leader, and passed the leadership of the party to others.

According to Mr. McWeeney, "at no time during the year did Mr. Hanna give the slightest indication to the National General Council that he thought it best that both he and Sir Lynden should resign their respective posts."

In a statement issued Sunday night, Mr. Hanna said:

"Ordinarily I would not have raised the matter because it was a discussion between Sir Lynden and myself; I have not and do not intend to breach our confidences. However, it was Sir Lynden who first raised this matter publicly in effect at a meeting with colleagues towards the end of April, 1985, in which he made the gathering aware of that part of our conversation to which objection has now been taken even though he did not refer to me by name.

"His reference was to a request made by a colleague in

which he stated that the colleague 'put it as delicately as he could,' when he suggested Sir Lynden ought to resign. It was clear to me and it was clear to others that Sir Lynden was referring to me. I wish to make it quite clear that my suggestions never intended to mean that Sir Lynden ought to resign so that I could become Prime Minister.

"It was always clear to Sir Lynden and colleagues in the party that whenever he went I would of necessity have to go because of our shared commitment, struggle and leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party. In addition, our political interests were very closely involved. This would not be news for colleagues in the PLP because they would all recall that in 1977 when Sir Lynden offered his resignation to the party I offered to resign at the same time."

On Monday, Mr. McWeeney, who was last week returned to a second term as PLP chairman, issued the following news release:

"Whilst I have the greatest of respect for the Hon. Arthur D. Hanna, I feel compelled to comment on certain portions of his press statement of today's date in which he has taken issue with the Rt. Hon. Sir Lynden Pindling's denial that Mr. Hanna suggested to him prior to his resignation in September, 1984, that they ought both of them to resign as leader and deputy leader, respectively, and pass the leadership of the party on to others.

"Firstly, it ought to be observed that Mr. Hanna's position on the matter is weakened by the fact that at last year's convention, which took place only one month after his resignation from the Cabinet, he (1) offered for the deputy

leadership of the party and was returned without opposition to that position; (2) that he accepted that position after Sir Lynden had himself been returned without opposition to the post of party leader; and (3) that at no time whatsoever did Mr. Hanna advise that convention that he had any difficulty with the convention's determination that he ought to continue as leader. Had he had such a difficulty, one would have expected him not only to say so but to decline to serve as deputy leader and to express the view that Sir Lynden, too, ought to step down. As it turned out, neither course was taken.

"Secondly, if, as Mr. Hanna now says, he only accepted re-election last year in the hope that the party would 're-establish' itself, he ought to have advised the convention that his commitment to the post was tentative and conditional. Nothing which he said at last year's convention led delegates to believe that there were strings attached, so to speak, to his preparedness to continue to serve as Sir Lynden's deputy.

"Moreover, I must say that I find Mr. Hanna's present position on the matter confusing to the extent that at this year's convention he did not rest his decision to withdraw from the race for deputy leader on any inherent difficulty with Sir Lynden's leadership but rather

solely on the ground that he has sensed in the convention a lack of the kind of unqualified support that he would need in order to function effectively as deputy leader. In other words, Mr. Hanna was saying that the votes just weren't there in sufficient numbers. I can only infer from that that had Mr. Hanna thought he had sufficient votes he would have had no difficulty in continuing to serve as deputy under Sir Lynden Pindling's leadership, and would have continued to so serve.

"It is finally to be noted that at no time during the year did Mr. Hanna give the slightest indication to the National General Council that he thought it best that both he and Sir Lynden should resign their respective posts.

"Mr. Hanna remains, in my view, one of the giants of the Progressive Liberal Party struggle. His contributions to that struggle, over the course of many years, have been a rich source of nourishment for our party and an inspiration to our nation. I, therefore, join in the tribute paid to him last Friday evening by Sir Lynden. I express the hope that he will in the months and years ahead assist the party in projecting its message to the Bahamian people in a positive, constructive and uplifting manner and let bygones be bygones."

Call for Economic Plan

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Nov 85 p 4

[Article by Marcia Bethell: "Calls for 20 Year Economic Plan for Nation (At PLP Convention)"]

[Text]

AN ECONOMIC task force should be appointed by government to examine the Bahamas' development potential and to implement an economic plan for the next 20 years, Mrs Judy Munroe suggested in her address to the 30th annual PLP convention last week.

This task force should be made up of persons from

government, the business community, environmentalists and the youth of the Bahamas.

"This task force would be given the responsibility of examining our development potential and putting together a plan for the next two decades - a plan which will prioritize projects and link projects to islands," Mrs Munroe said.

"Why young people you may ask? We have provided them with education and exposure. They have demonstrated a readiness and competence to make them full participants now. This task force should take advantage of the varying expertise and experience of persons in this community," Mrs Munroe said.

Addressing the convention on social and economic prospects for the future, Mrs Munroe, a former Chamber of Commerce president, said that before looking at the prospects for the future an evaluation of the progress made over the past 18 years must first be made.

She pointed out that in all developing countries the failures or "by-products" of development have been the deterioration of moral and spiritual values, an increase in drug abuse and crime and a loss of cultural identities. She said that the Bahamas is no exception.

"Developing this archipelagic nation is complex and difficult. In spite of this, we enjoy a quality of life that is envied in the region. This can be directly attributed to foresight and wisdom of our leaders in their promotion of tourism," Mrs Munroe said.

She said that tourism has enabled Bahamians to provide infrastructure in areas that were formerly fishing and/or farming villages.

"Tourism has demanded that we put in telephones, electricity and provide at least minimum health care centres in what may have otherwise been remote areas. Tourism has moved from being a "fickle" industry to an industry that is resilient; if one uses effective promotion, provide a good product and excellent service," Mrs Munroe said.

She said that as government looks to "the way ahead" they must continue to expand in some new areas, in new islands, saying that attention should be focused on the southern Bahama islands.

"As we move into the next

decade, as we look to 'the way ahead' we must talk less and do more and diversify more," Mrs Munroe said.

Mrs Munroe said that those business-minded persons in the private sector must take advantage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative agreement, to which the Bahamas became a signatory in March, 1985.

"CBI is a broad-based programme offering duty free entry in the United States market for a very large number of products. The benefits of CBI are not intended for the government of the United States, nor for the governments of the regions. CBI is an initiative that was conceived to stimulate economic development in the private sectors of the participating countries. Investors from the US and the Regions would have to act quickly in order to avail themselves of the benefits of CBI as we have but a decade in which to take advantage of the agreement," Mrs Munroe said.

Mrs Munroe also mentioned the Lome Convention that allows products produced in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to enter the European economic community duty free.

Mrs Munroe said young people must play a greater part in contributing to the economic development of the Bahamas.

"As parents and teachers, we have emphasized the traditional professions, doctors, lawyers, accountants. I think we will have to continue to place emphasis on the traditional professions, but those professions are but a step to real development. Real development is created by entrepreneurs, those men and women with vision, courage and foresight to bring together land, capital and labour. In 1967 we as a people gained political power. We have spent much time politicking and very little time on gaining economic power," Mrs Munroe said.

BAHAMAS

CRITICISM OF PINDLING GOVERNMENT COMES FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS

Chamber President's Remarks

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 31 Oct 85 pp 1, 2

[Article: "PM Has yet to Keep Promises Made in January Notes Newly Elected Chamber President"]

[Text] Newly re-elected President of the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Charles Coakley said Wednesday night that during the 1984/85 Chamber year, the organization created a slot for itself in the business community of Grand Bahama "and indeed the whole Bahamas."

The Chamber head also informed that promises made by the Government back in January of this year with respect to setting up Government agencies here like the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and a branch of the Registry has been unkept up to now. Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling made those promises to a Chamber gathering back on January 26, 1985.

He indicated that the Chamber had come on the local and national business map in style and that was made possible because of the healthy rapport the Chamber has been able to develop with the Grand Bahama Port Authority, while giving the Bahamas Government its due respect.

A senior executive with the Island Electric Company and President of the GRAND BAHAMA SUN, Mr. Coakley's remarks came in his Annual

President's Address before the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce, which held its Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers in the King Henry Room of the Bahamas Princess Hotel last evening. Mr. Coakley was returned unopposed to the position of President for yet another year along with his entire slate of officers.

He told the gathering that the 1984/85 administration of the Chamber realized and proved to a considerable degree that there is no need to be fighting the Grand Bahama Port Authority, or be at odds with the Bahamas Government to prove that the Chamber was being effective.

He said that the Chamber becoming visible was not an easy job as the organization was conceived in a community where any organization that is not properly understood becomes immediately politically suspect, "and a community where far too many people still believe and expect that anything that is enduring and community beneficial must be given its birth by the politicians and be continually operated under the watchful eye of the Member of Parliament or their ever vigilant generals."

"It is within this type of milieu that the Grand Bahama Chamber

of Commerce is continuing its strides to be a viable entity reflecting the legitimate pulse-beat and activating the same of the Grand Bahama business community" he stated.

He informed that the Chamber staged five major events in the 1984/85 year and that one of the most significant was the two-day Business Seminar held in January, which culminated with their annual installation of officers.

He said that the attendance at the two-day seminar had exceeded the expectations of all involved and that the general reaction of those involved ran the full length of spectrum from absolute negativity to overly positive enthusiasm.

Mr. Coakley reminded his audience that as a result of that seminar, the Government (Sir Lynden) had promised to make their presence felt more on Grand Bahama by setting up several Government offices here such as a branch of The Ministry of Finance and office of the Prime Minister; The development Bank; The Registrar's Office and a branch of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Though not dealt with in detail by Mr. Coakley, the FREEPORT NEWS understands that none of the above promises that were made by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has been acted upon yet.

Continuing to highlight the January Business session, Mr. Coakley informed that attention was also drawn to certain sections of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement that expires in 1990, and that the Government had asked the Chamber to come up with recommendations for the demised sections of the Agreement in 1990.

Commenting on that he stated: "In the interest of truth in an age of lies and counter lies, let us state that a committee was appointed by the Chamber for this purpose under the very capable chairmanship of Mr. Rawle Maynard. We know that this committee spent many long

hours on this project, gleaned view points from sectors in the community, and even made the topic an interesting one for one of our regular meetings."

Mr. Coakley informed that the Committee completed its recommendation and that they were sent into Nassau and acknowledged.

With regards to the other promises made by Government in the line of increasing their presence on Grand Bahama the Chamber President informed that the increased Government's presence in Grand Bahama thus far has been nothing more than a two-day once a month presence of the Bahamas Development Bank.

"We are still awaiting the remainder of the promises" Mr. Coakley stated in his annual President's remarks.

Mr. Coakley then focused on other events staged by the Chamber such as the 'Tourism Awareness Month'; Distinguished Citizens' Award, Small Business Seminar, and CBI seminars to name a few.

He said that "it is my humble submission that during the past year, all the activities of the Chamber, both those that were mentioned in this report and those that were not, were definitely in the business vein, consistent with the objectives of the Chamber as delineated in the Memorandum of Association.

"Within our democratic society and our Free Enterprise system, any Chamber of Commerce to be effective must have a healthy rapport with the Government of the day.

"This does not mean that the Chamber must become a puppet of the Government, but it does mean that the Chamber must throw its weight and give its full cooperation to all legitimate business ventures that Government embarks on for the general good of the community.

"If the question ever arises that it suspects any ventures embarked, on by Government, then the Chamber should say so

to Government and give its reasons, but with the understanding, however, that Government need not heed to every request made by the Chamber as there may be reasons of national interest that supercede the sectional interest of the Chamber.

"In the same way that the Chamber must never allow itself to become a willing tool of the Government, nor must the Chamber be used as an arena for forces opposed to the Government to attack the Government.

Ex-PLP Official's Views

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 7 Nov 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Simon Lewis: "PLP Transformed Into PM's Personal Political Organization - Bowen"]

[Text] **Former Deputy Speaker in the House of Assembly and one time representative for the West End and Bimini Seat, Mr. Henry J. Bowen charged today that it must be obvious to everyone now that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has "captured the PLP and has transformed it into his personal political organization which is being manipulated for the sole purpose of keeping Lynden Oscar Pindling in Power."**

He said that Sir Lynden has put a scare in many PLP backbenchers and that they know now that if they dare challenge his judgement they would feel his whip. He said that the only thing that can now save this country is the people themselves and that the people must show this through elections. To this end he said that Grand Bahamians must continue to show the way and reject Pindling.

Mr. Bowen said that Sir Lynden knows that the people of Grand Bahama are too intelligent to be fooled by him and for that reason Sir Lynden and his Government has refused to introduce any new parliamentary seats on Grand Bahama. He said that with a population of around 45,000 people, that Grand Bahama should now have three

times as many constituencies (seats in parliament) as it has now.

With regards to the recent PLP Convention Mr. Bowen said that it was the Prime Minister's convention. "Sean McWeeney as Chairman, only carried out the Prime Minister's instruction.

"The Prime Minister is an old hand at doing this and he plans his moves very carefully. His opening speech set the stage for the convention and he more or less told the delegates what he the Prime Minister expected. Like for instance when he said give me the people I want as officers.

"That was an indication then that he planned to ditch the Deputy Leader (Mr. Arthur D. Hanna)" Mr. Bowen noted, adding that the Prime Minister is proceeding to turn the Bahamas

into a one party state.

"You will recall that he promised to smash up the opposition, and mind you, you will recall that the constitution calls for an opposition party. You will also recall that Mr. Clement Maynard (New Deputy Leader) at one time said that he will not rest until everybody in The Bahamas is PLP.

"So Clement will help the Prime Minister to carry out his plan to eliminate all opposition and all opposing voices in the country so that everybody, at least on the surface would belong to the Prime Minister's PLP he stated.

Mr. Bowen, who has also felt the whip of Sir Lynden and the PLP by their denial of nomination to seek re-election of the West End Seat in 1982, apparently because of his criticism of Sir Lynden and the then party leader Andrew "Dud" Maynard, said that what the country will see, "is a growing fear, a more pronounced fear among backbenchers, not to do anything or say anything, or appear to act in anyway whatsoever that will displease the Prime Minister."

"This is very sad, especially when one thinks of the early days of the PLP and the principles for which the party stood, the principles in fact on which the party was founded."

Mr. Bowen who began his political career with the Progressive Liberal Party in 1953 and who over the years became a close friend of Sir Lynden before he was axed said the elimination of former Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Arthur D. Hanna as Deputy Leader of the party was Mr. Pindling's doing.

He said that the people on the PLP Council are there because of Mr. Pindling's blessings, and that the backbenchers of the party are beholden to Sir Lynden and will do as he says in order to protect themselves.

He added that the incident with Mr. Hanna and others is further warning to those PLPs that "if they do not do what he

(Sir Lynden) wishes, they would get shafted.

"There is no doubt about that

Mr. Bowen said. "He (Sir Lynden, can find 100 different ways to victimize people and he would appear as if he isn't doing it or doesn't have anything to do with it, and if anybody ask him about it he pretends to be surprised and all the while he is behind it. He is the instigator."

About Sir Lynden, Mr. Bowen said that "he is a great act. He is a great pretender. He can pretend that he doesn't know anything about a situation when all along he is the man behind it.

"But it is obvious to everybody now that the PLP is a one man party. The Prime Minister has captured the PLP and he has transformed it into his personal political organization which is being manipulated for the sole purpose of keeping Lynden Oscar Pindling in power."

With regards to the current practise of the PLP to simply cut loose those who object to certain things in the party Mr. Bowen said that the PLP party's decision to ignore or cut loose those persons is not only bad for the party but "also bad for the country."

"We are a small country and we cannot afford to loose people who are willing to serve the country. In Mr. Pindling's eyes you have to serve the party and the party is Pindling. He really doesn't care about whether or not a person is willing to serve the country, that really doesn't matter as far as he is concerned.

"If you are loyal to Pindling it means that you are loyal to the party or if you are loyal to the party you are loyal to Pindling and in so far as the country is concerned the country definitely takes second."

Mr. Bowen said that one cannot now expect any type of reaction to come from the membership of the PLP as they are being "cowed" to do what

Sir Lynden wants them to do.

"The salvation will have to come from the voters of The Bahamas. That is our only salvation. The people of The Bahamas will have to say enough is enough. Rescue the Progressive Liberal Party and rescue the constitution, because the constitution is being assailed.

"If you destroy the opposition, if you make everybody in the country PLP as Clement Maynard says he wants, then what happens to the constitution? Eventually you would have dictatorship.

"I repeat, the people will have to rescue the constitution from further assault, whether the assault comes from Pindling, Sean McWeeney or anybody else. The constitution is the supreme law of the land and if we are to respect it, if we are to be protected by the constitution, then we must be willing to defend it."

Mr. Bowen said that Grand Bahama in his opinion is in a unique position to make tremendous contribution to the salvation of The Bahamas.

"In Grand Bahama with its intelligent population, vibrant economy and the aggressive nature of its people it would probably have to come to the forefront. And Mr. Pindling knows this. That is why he would

give Grand Bahama its due."

He explained that the Boundary Commission is supposed to meet every five years for the purpose of setting boundaries in The Bahamas. "If you are going to take Grand Bahama as an island, let us say a population of about 45,000 people and compare it with says Kemps Bay with a population about 1,000 or 1,200 people. Grand Bahama is entitled to three times as many seats in the House of Assembly.

"Grand Bahama is entitled to three times as many seats as it has now" he stated.

But you see the danger is that if Grand Bahama is given its just proportion of seats, a majority of the people of Grand Bahama are not likely to vote the Pindling way. The people of Grand Bahama are too independent to be misled by Pindling. He can bamboozle the people in Kemps Bay, but he can't hoodwink the people of Grand Bahama, because when he comes to Grand Bahama his is dealing with a totally different kind of mentality all together.

"And he knows this, that is why he will keep the number of seats allocated to Grand Bahama at a bare minimum. And this will go on indefinitely unless we the people of Grand Bahama demand are rights under the constitution. We are being under represented and over taxed" He stated.

RNM Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Nov 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Colin Higgins: "'Country Believes AD, not PM' says Foulkes"]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Free National Movement MP Arthur Foulkes told a Tuesday night rally he feels the country believes Arthur Hanna rather than Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling "because they know Sweet Mouth Willie."

Mr Hanna, rejecting a nomination for the deputy leadership of his party, last week

told the party convention that before resigning as Deputy Prime Minister he suggested to Sir Lynden that they both resign and assist in selecting new leadership.

Prime Minister Pindling, in the convention's keynote address, denied this but in later press releases Mr Hanna maintained his position.

The veteran politician resigned shortly before the 1983 Commission of Inquiry into drug trafficking and related corruption reported adversely on former Ministers Kendal Nottage and George Smith, Government Senator Andrew "Dud" Maynard and Everette Bannister, a friend and political and business associate of Prime Minister Pindling.

Mr Foulkes, FNM Blue Hills MP, said everything that has happened bears Mr Hanna out. "He did in fact resign."

"He resigned and the others with him made their demonstration that they too were fed up with Pindling and they believe and they are convicted that Pindling ought to go - ought to have gone."

Mr Foulkes told listeners at his party's R M Bailey playing field rally that from school days Hanna and Pindling were friends.

"They were friends in Britain together and they always talk about it. I remember Hanna talking about how he had to walk one Christmas from where he was at school way down to where Pindling was."

"When we took over the government in those days," said Mr Foulkes - a former PLP minister - "Hanna was his most trusted friend."

"And through all the years Hanna has stood by him! Hanna took blows for him! Hanna defended him at every turn!" Hanna opposed the original PLP dissidents when they said the Prime Minister was a dictator, Mr Foulkes said.

He reminded the former Deputy Prime Minister that this month makes exactly 15 years "since eight of us voted against Pindling on the floor of the House of Assembly and started the Free National Movement."

Horns of vehicles blew loud and long as hundreds cheered and applauded.

Mr Foulkes said he never thought he would see the day when Mr Hanna would say the things that he is saying today "about his man, his friend, his leader."

"But I can't help tell him too, you know, it's a little late hey? Little late."

"If they had stood with us, him and others, if they had stood with us in 1970 the country wouldn't be in the hell that it's in today!"

"And if not in 1970, on many occasions after 1970! They knew because we pointed the finger of corruption - you remember during the PVC pipes thing."

"We pointed the finger of corruption with regard to the Abaco road! All of that."

Mr Hanna, said the speaker, always came to Prime Minister Pindling's defence.

Saying that he was going to mention things said by Mr Hanna at convention, Mr Foulkes noted, "Now, all we have to do is sit back and repeat what they say."

"No more argument, the argument, the debate finish."

"You recall the leader of our party standing before us ever since the election in 1982? Going through the percentages and the figures to show how close we were?"

"And you remember the PLP spokesman trying to ridicule our leader because of that?" asked Mr Foulkes.

"But here comes the truth from Arthur Hanna! He say, 'It takes only a shift of 5% and we gone!'"

A listener called out, "We on the home stretch man!"

When whether they believed that since the Commission of Inquiry the shift has been more than 5%, listeners responded with cheers, applause and long toots on their car horns.

Speculating on who Mr Hanna might have been thinking of, Mr Foulkes referred to the PLP member's statement to the 1985 convention of the Progressive Liberal Party that "we are not empowered by God" to make wrong right or, to make right wrong.

Mr Foulkes said it seems that Bishop K D Josey is trying to convince the country that he received a divine commandment to let the Bahamian people know that "this man (Sir Lynden) is the man that God himself has anointed!"

The FNM MP called it "ridiculous" and asked "Why they want to blame things like that on God?"

No one could make right the fact that the Prime Minister accepted \$¼ million from Edward St George of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, said Mr Foulkes. "And half a million dollars from one George Barbar in Boca Raton, that also is dead wrong," the speaker said. "And the \$16,000 he said he got from his constituents."

Mr Foulkes did not feel anyone would believe the money came from constituents and added that if it did, it was a "shame" to take money from them.

The speaker quoted from Mr Hanna's convention address, "'The party must demand,' this is Hanna talking about the PLP, 'must demand that Bahamians be redeemed from,' and I'm quoting directly now, 'must be redeemed from political dishonesty and corruption. Redeemed from lawlessness, neglect and also unemployment and hopelessness and despair and criminality'!

"That's AD Hanna talking to his PLP Government!" said Mr Foulkes. "Sound like he almost FNM hey?"

The FNM Blue Hills MP referred to Mr Hanna telling PLPs that they must ensure that the PLP is not "sacrificed on the altar of selfishness...greed, arrogance and the mistaken belief that right or wrong the Bahamian people will stick with us and continue to support us."

Said Mr Foulkes, "That's Hanna again. And again he was getting the message to his Prime Minister and to the country, 'The people are leaving you because they got no more confidence in you! Because you are too selfish! Because you are too greedy! Because you are too arrogant.'"

Mr Foulkes said the next election will be easiest for the FNM in terms of the debate. "Only one thing we gon' have to look out for and that is...that's right, dead people votin'!"

TUC Political Plans

Freeport THE FREEPORT NEWS in English 22 Oct 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Simon Lewis: "TUC May Form Labour Party as Alternative to PLP in Next Elections"]

[Text]

Indications are that a new political labour organization may come into being when the next general election is called, with the disclosure today by the leader of The Bahamas Trade Union Congress [TUC] that his organization is contemplating entering the political arena.

In a telephone interview with TUC President Mr. Arlington Miller this morning, he confirmed reports that his organization is considering offering candidates for seats in the House of Assembly during the next general election which must be held in 1987.

However some political observers feel that an election will be called before 1987 and Mr. Miller said that this organization is also prepared to deal with an early election. He said that they have been couraging the Government to "go back to the people" and seek a new mandate for quite sometime.

Mr. Miller revealed that during the (TUC) Annual Retreat held in Abaco there was much discussion with respect to their positioning candidates for elections.

"But we have not made a sound decision on that yet" Mr. Miller said. He stated that the majority of the nearly 40 delegates from 13 TUC affiliates throughout the Bahamas who

attended the the conclave, "feel that Labour should have a voice in the decision making of the country."

Aside from its criticism of Government, its policies and certain members being linked to underworld figures, drugs and corruption, the TUC has for a long time criticized what they termed inadequate labour laws in this country and have called on government to implement laws to protect the workers and to introduce a minimum wage.

As far back as early 1984 the TUC charged that the numerous allegations that have been made against the government before the Commission of Inquiry have caused a lack of confidence in the government.

The TUC, through its affiliates has between 12,000 to 14,000 membership. The only major union not holding membership

in the TUC is the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union, which was once headed by PLP M.P. David Knowles and which is still believed to have a close association with the ruling Progressive Liberal Party. The union is now headed by Mr. Thomas Bastian, who for a long time served as Mr Knowles vice president.

Newly elected T.U.C. First Vice-President Mr. Hurie Balfour Bodye did not deny that the

labour forces in the country are seeking to have representation in Parliament.

Mr. Bodye was the unanimous choice for the T.U.C. 1st Vice President Post during the Retreat held in Abaco. The position was left vacant by Mr. Nesbitt Higgins who according to a TUC official quit functioning.

Since rejoining the TUC a couple of years back Mr. Bodye has helped organize several international training sessions for labour leaders and members here on Grand Bahama.

It is said the general membership attending the retreat were "Excited" about

having him (Mr. Bodye) on the executive board, which already include such noted labour leaders as Mr. Miller and TUC Secretary General Mr. A. Leonard Archer, who also serves as President of the Commonwealth Congress of Labour.

Following its two-day weekend retreat held at Treasure Cay, Abaco around the end of September, the TUC issued a four-page press statement stating that as a result of the blatant corruption in government, they would seek an accommodation of all opposition forces to provide Bahamians with a viable alternative to the PLP whenever a general election is called.

The report stated that during the two-day retreat, "Members concluded that as a result of the political crisis facing The Bahamas, it (the T.U.C.) has now become more active in the political life in the nation."

Opposition Free National Movement party leader Mr. Kendal G.L. Isaacs has welcomed the TUC in joining in the effort to rid the country of what he termed "a corrupt government" and has encouraged more dialogue between his organization and the TUC on the matter.

Regarding the uniting of all opposition forces in the country, the TUC in its press statement issued earlier this month said that the congress sees this as the best means to rid our beloved nation of a Government which has disgraced our good name and made The Bahamas a laughing stock of the international community."

Further, the report stated that the TUC again called for the immediate resignation of the Government and for immediate general elections.

The statement said that "Members were particularly irked by the hypocrisy of the government in spending millions on the Queen's visit and CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) while refusing to spend a penny on the

young people of this nation whose lives are being destroyed by the trafficking of drugs, a traffic to which some members of Government contributed," The TUC said.

They further noted that "Members concluded that the Pindling Government is corrupt, dishonest, deceitful and discredited and hence the reiteration of the demand for immediate general elections."

While it was not mentioned who the TUC would offer as possible candidates in the next election it is believed that Mr. Miller and Mr. Archer's name top the list.

/12851

CSO: 3298/204

BAHAMAS

PINDLING INTRODUCES 'BALANCED' BUDGET FOR 1986

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 Nov 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "PM Unveils \$529 Million 'Balanced' Budget"]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Sir Lynden Pindling today unveiled a "balanced" \$529.3 million 1986 budget, forecasting a bad year for drinkers, smokers and motorists with "minor" increases in taxes on gasoline, alcoholic beverages and cigarettes.

In what is considered to be an election year budget with numerous capital development projects earmarked for New Providence, Grand Bahama and the other Family Islands, the Prime Minister said he does not propose to introduce any new taxes or any major increases on existing taxes in 1986.

Delivering his second budget communication since becoming Minister of Finance in October, 1984, the Prime Minister also announced that the Ministry of Education, including the College of the Bahamas, would get the lion's share of the budget with an allocation of \$88.6 million or 19.3 per cent over last year's figure.

Following closely upon Education is the Ministry of Health, including Freeport's Rand Memorial Hospital and Environmental Health, with \$65.6 million, the Police Department with \$34 million, the Ministry of Tourism with \$28.1 million and the Ministry of Works with \$13.1 million.

The Prime Minister further announced that \$109.2 million or 23.8 per cent of the total Recurrent Expenditure Budget or 23.7 per cent of total

estimated revenue, will go towards servicing the national debt, an increase of \$4.2 million over last year's debt payment.

Sir Lynden's 44-page budget communication was delivered in the absence of members of the official opposition Free National Movement, who walked out behind Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, after failing to obtain an undertaking from Government that the Budget debate will be broadcast by ZNS.

The opposition move followed objections by Mr Isaacs, MP for Delaporte, and FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, over House of Assembly Speaker Sir Clifford Darling giving ZNS TV-13 permission to broadcast the Prime Minister's Budget communication.

The objection took half an hour of heated exchanges between Mr Isaac and Mr Whitfield and the Prime Minister, the Speaker, House Leader and Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard and Works, Utilities and National Insurance Minister Darrell Rolle.

The \$529.3 million 1986 budget is an increase of \$32.3 million over this year's \$438.6 million budget.

In his revenue measures, the Prime Minister said that in fiscal 1986, he proposes only "minor upward adjustments" in some taxes.

He proposed a five cent per

gallon tax increase, but noted that the price at the pumps is not expected to increase appreciably as the price of crude oil at the well-head is steadily coming down.

The Prime Minister also introduced a small increase in Customs duty on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes, items which were affected by the 2½ per cent across-the-board increase in customs duties approved by the House last year.

"Apart from that, I do not propose to introduce any new taxes or any major increases on existing taxes in 1986," the Prime Minister said in his second consecutive budget communication.

"I am of the opinion that the current level of taxes could support public expenditure if and only if all taxes owed to the Government are accurately assessed, promptly paid and brought to account in a timely fashion," he said.

"In this connection therefore, it is to our intention in 1986, to place a heavy emphasis on collections," the Prime Minister told the 30 members of the PLP and Government present for his address.

He said Government is acutely aware of and is sensitive to the principles of economic efficiency in the expenditure of public funds. But more importantly, it is determined not only to pursue fiscally prudent policies but will also in 1986 insist that the policy managers in the public service adhere strenuously to that commitment.

"It is within that context that my Government's plans for 1986 were developed and it is with that emphasis that those plans will be carried out over the next year," he said.

The Prime Minister said that total revenue receipts for 1986 are estimated to be in the region of \$458 million or 6 per cent above estimated level for 1985.

As usual, he said, the dominant revenue item is the proceeds from Customs duties which account for 35 per cent of the total revenue or \$252 million, while the non-tax estimates for 1986 amount to \$88.7 million or 19.4 per cent of total revenue.

"The realization of these estimates of revenue for 1986 will depend, to a large measure, on the extent to which we are able to tighten up the procedures for collections, minimise the degree of leakages and move vigorously to bring arrears owed to the Government to account," he said.

"In this connection, public servants who are responsible for revenue collections and the general public who are delinquent in the payment of lawful taxes, are hereby placed on notice that playing the fool with Government revenue in 1986 will not be tolerated," the Prime Minister said.

He said that in keeping with his Government's tradition of bringing to parliament a balanced budget on the recurrent account, the estimated Recurrent Expenditure for 1986 is \$458 million or approximately the same amount as the estimated revenue for 1986.

The Prime Minister said that 49.8 per cent or \$228 million of the total Recurrent Expenditure is allocated for personal emoluments in 1986.

"That figure represents payment of salaries and other benefits to public officers who are therefore expected to perform efficiently and effectively to justify that commanding share of public sector resources," he said.

He said the public debt, which includes principal and interest repayments on loans, Government stock and treasury bills, is estimated at \$109.2 million or 23.8 per cent of the total Recurrent Expenditure Budget or 23.7 per cent of total Estimated revenue.

"That proportion is regarded as very manageable in that it implies that out of every dollar of Government revenue, only 23¢ is applied for debt servicing," the Prime Minister said.

He said that the total Capital Development budget for 1986 is \$71.3 million or nine per cent larger than the 1985 budget of \$65 million.

In 1986, \$15 million has been allocated to the Ministry of Works and Utilities to continue the construction of roads in New Providence and the Family Islands, the erection of Government buildings and the

extension of electricity and water systems in the Family Islands, among other things.

The Department of Aviation has been allocated \$10 million for the continuation of developments at Nassau International Airport and the construction of terminals and runways in the Family Islands.

The Ministry of Education has been allocated \$12 million to construct new schools and to expand and repair existing ones.

For the further development of hospitals and clinics, the Ministry of Health has been allocated \$4 million.

The Prime Minister said Government is obliged to continue its assistance to quasi-Government corporations, acquire fixed assets for all Ministries and Departments and carry out its development commitment in the Grants Town area.

In this connection, he said, some \$16.5 million has been allocated to the Sundry Capital Expenditure and the Ministry of Finance.

/12851

CSO: 3298/204

BAHAMAS

FNM ACTION GROUP CRITICIZES POLICY TOWARD HAITIANS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Nov 85 p 5

[Letter to the Editor: "Open Letter to PM Over the Haitians"]

[Text]

THE following is an open letter delivered to Prime Minister Pindling at the Cabinet Office at 1:20 pm today by FNM Action Group leader George Wilson.

An Open Letter To:

The Rt Hon Lynden O Pindling
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth
of the Bahamas
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mr Prime Minister:

I write as a Black Bahamian whose ancestry in this land can be traced back coursing its way through hundreds of other Bahamian families all of whose history in this land began with the docking of the first slave ship.

It is with these credentials and a sense of Justice, decency, and fairplay developed through rigorous Christian training that I address this open letter to you and your Government to tell you that your approach to the Haitian question in our land is wrong and ought not to be supported by any Bahamian, black or white who properly examines this issue before us.

Perhaps, the most ironic thing, Sir, is the fact that it is YOU, who seeks to become the foremost champion of the cause of blacks fighting for justice, decency and fairplay in South Africa who is prepared in a cheap political ploy to make illegal immigrants, most notably Haitians, the scape goats for a

Government that was down in the hole, asleep or drunk, for the past 15 years.

Is it not true, Sir, that if your Government were awake and sober over the past 15 years, and not constantly distracted with the sale of bridges and the amassing of wealth, you would have had more time to properly assess the socio-economic factors that were beginning to change the course of Bahamian society?

Could not your Government were it awake and sober, have reduced significantly the inflow of illegal immigrants over the past 15 years, thus minimizing the problem that would have existed today?

And finally, Sir, is it not also true that had your Government allowed the economy to grow and expand as it allowed the drug trade, there would have been no difficulties in absorbing these refugees from starvation and destitution in this "land of milk and honey" to which the good Lord led us?

Are we so long out of Egypt, Sir, that we cannot feel the terror that must be in the hearts of the mothers and fathers who fled to our shores for a better way of life?

Did not your father just come with the same hope as they? Can you not imagine yourself 50 years ago in your father's arms being carried back on a boat to the hell he had tried to flee? Look about you, Sir? Did not the Bahamas find a place

for you and many others once you were here so long and had no place else to go?

It is wrong, Sir, for your minister who "loves black people" to incite panic and terror in the lives of our ordinarily peaceful Haitian brothers and sisters.

It would be wrong to round them up like cattle, unless an orderly repatriation has been arranged with their former Government, and this should be communicated to them.

It would be wrong, Sir, during the period that it shall take to repatriate these poor souls, to deny them the means of living while they wait.

It would also be wrong, Sir, to violently uproot Bahamian children, born and bred in our midst and cart them off to some land they never knew.

If the Government sees this issue as one of genuine crisis and not manufactured once again for pre-election propaganda then the appropriate body within the United Nations should be properly consulted to assist in our dilemma.

For too long my brothers, have black people been rounded up in the middle of the night.

GEORGE WILSON

Nassau,

November 22, 1985.

/12851

CSO: 3298/205

BAHAMAS

GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST FLYING WITHOUT PERMITS, LICENSES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Nov 85 pp 1, 14

[Article: "Warning to Aircraft Operators"]

[Text]

THE Ministry of Transport has warned aircraft owners and operators that it is an offence to operate an aircraft for hire or reward without first obtaining a licence or permit granted by the Minister of Transport, the Bahamas Information Services announced today.

According to a one-page statement by BIS, there have been recent reports about alleged illegal aircraft operations to/from and within the Bahamas in contravention of the Civil Aviation (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations, 1976.

"The Ministry of Transport wishes to inform all aircraft owners and operators that it is an offence to operate an aircraft for hire or reward

without first obtaining a licence or permit granted by the Minister of Transport," the statement said.

"Licence holders are also reminded that aircraft may not be added to their fleet without prior approval to do so," the ministry warned.

The ministry said that any person who uses an aircraft in contravention of the Civil Aviation regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, upon summary conviction, in the case of a first offence, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, and in the case of a subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

/12851

CSO: 3298/205

BAHAMAS

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WILL BECOME CORPORATION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "Civil Aviation Dept to Become Airport Authority Corporation"]

[Text]

THE Bahamas Government is to turn the Civil Aviation Department, which includes the renovated Nassau International Airport, into an Airport Authority Corporation similar to the water, electricity and telecommunications corporations, it is reported.

While the exact date when such a change is to take place is not known, it is understood that the proposed change will take effect in about two years time.

Already reorganizational changes are taking place at the airport which is now under the portfolio of Minister of Transport Philip Bethel, MP for Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera.

Over a month ago, the Minister announced the appointment of Canadian Clarence Hebert as manager of Nassau International Airport.

According to an airport source, Mr Hebert will assume the duties performed by Mr Donald Ingraham, Director of Civil Aviation, who is being retired from the post he has held for over 15 years.

Mr Hebert previously served with the Ministry of Transport in Canada, and had among his responsibilities planning, design and operation of airport/civil aviation facilities.

Mr Ingraham is currently on pre-retirement leave and is not due back until January, when, according to the source, he will remain for about a week to

clear up his desk.

Rumours of Mr Ingraham's imminent departure began circulating around the airport early last month.

It was reported that Mr Hebert's appointment as airport manager-consultant on October 1 made Mr Ingraham's position redundant.

It is understood that Mr Ingraham was one of two senior officials at Civil Aviation who applied for the position now occupied by Mr Hebert.

Two months ago, Aubrey Curling, Bahamasair general manager for the past six years, resigned. Government engaged Sir Freddie Laker as the new management consultant for the national flag carrier.

The resignation of Mr Curling was part of a shake-up at Bahamasair foreshadowed by the Transport Minister in October, 1984.

The Minister also announced at the time that a three-year development programme for the airport to meet the needs of the country for the next 15 to 20 years at a cost of between \$15 and \$20 million.

In November, 1985, the Ministers of Works and Transport signed a \$3.88 million contract for the construction of the first phase of a major redevelopment programme for the airport.

The project will comprise modern Immigration and

Customs halls, staff offices, a new and improved Government Tourist Information booth, a hotel reservation and facilitation area and various services for the comfort of travellers and officials.

In September, 1984, the US Customs Department asked the Bahamas government to improve the pre-clearance facilities at the airport.

The Tribune has been reliably informed that the US authorities were concerned about drugs entering the United States on pre-cleared flights and that the airport facilities were considered substandard.

/12851

CSO: 3298/205

BARBADOS

ST JOHN SEEKS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM FOR CBI

FL251640 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 24 Nov 85

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, 24 Nov (CANA)--Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John wants to see the establishment of a consultative mechanism that will facilitate ongoing dialogue between the legal and executive branches of the Governments of the United States and the Caribbean.

He spoke about the need for consultation during an airport news conference last night on his return from the annual Miami conference on the Caribbean. The conference is a forum that provides the opportunity for discussion among the American and Caribbean public and private sectors on economic development initiatives for the region.

I believe that if this (consultative mechanism) is somehow or the other introduced, a lot of the misunderstanding that has arisen (with regard to the Caribbean Basin Initiative--CBI) would be removed, St John told reporters.

Discussion at the Miami conference focused on the progress of the CBI--President Reagan's multi-million dollar trade, aid, investment and tourism package for the Caribbean and Central America--since its implementation two years ago, and according to St John, the general feeling put forward was that the scheme had not lived up to initial expectations.

The CBI, drawn up by the Reagan administration to help spur economic growth within the Caribbean, has as its main feature twelve years duty-free access to the United States market for most regionally produced goods.

Uncertainty within the American business community about the CBI and fears of possible protectionist measures that would prevent some regional goods from benefitting under the CBI provisions were proving a major hurdle in attracting investment under the plan, St John said.

The consultative mechanism he has in mind would help iron out these problems.

St John rejected the view that bureaucracy within the region was also a major obstacle to attracting investment. He acknowledged problems in this area and

said regional governments were working to ease the situation. I don't think it can truthfully be said that our bureaucracy is really the hindrance, he remarked.

The hindrance arises from the uncertainties in the American business minds as to how long the CBI is going to last, as to whether Congress is not going to allow itself to be influenced by particular lobbies in relation to particular products, and to whether it is a bipartisan regime or not.

He went on, I think they (the United States) are equally responsible for the fact that we have not got off of the ground as fast as we should, as well as the fact that Congress itself did not implement CBI in the original fashion that it was proposed to them.

St John said: They took out the investment tax credit, and secondly, they accepted from the regime areas of economic activities--textiles, footwear--that had installed capacity in the Caribbean already and would therefore be likely to take off the fastest.

He noted that Barbados tourism was one area which had benefitted since the CBI came on stream, citing the tremendous amount of publicity the island had received since 1982, resulting in a dramatic upturn in American visitors' arrivals here. Hotels with convention centres had also benefitted, he said.

St John said Barbados, because of its high labour costs, could not focus on attracting labour intensive industries under the CBI, because it was uncompetitive compared with other CBI beneficiaries like Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

We have to target our appeal in areas where our costs make us competitive, vis-a-vis Puerto Rico, vis-a-vis American mainland manufacturers, he explained.

We have to sell ourselves as being a country with sophisticated infrastructure, with a highly trained or trainable labour force, and with a good record of stability.

/9274

CSO: 3298/213

BARBADOS

COMMENTS INDICATE THAW IN TIES WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

Union Views

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 19 Nov 85 p 2

[Text]

THE BARBADOS WORKERS UNION (BWU) has welcomed the recent news that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is expected to act soon to dismantle its licensing system.

According to the BWU, the protectionist measures have reduced the flow of goods from other CARICOM states to that country. In addition, it has also had a negative impact on the economy of Barbados, causing a significant reduction in employment, particularly in manufacturing (garments).

"The union is pleased to see that efforts have been made to patch up the difficulties between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. It is clear to us that the Grenada intervention in which the Government of Barbados participated, but which was denounced by Trinidad and Tobago, and the subsequent exchanges between the two countries, were the reasons for the cooling of relations."

It continued: "The union hopes that the current discussions will lead to concrete action to put the hands of the workers back to work. The workers of this country have suffered immeasurably over the past two years following

the closure of dozens of enterprises in manufacturing and commerce."

The BWU estimated that over 15 000 workers suffered directly as a result of this impasse. It noted that those who had not been made redundant had been forced to work on a reduced time period which had clearly led to frustration and disruptions in their domestic life.

"The union must state, however, that although it is aware that some companies have fallen on hard times, some of them with no pretence of social responsibility have used the economic downturn as an excuse to reorganise their businesses and boot out some of their staff."

Conciliatory Note From St John

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 1 Dec 85 p 39

[Text]

WHILE EXPECTING Caribbean Community (CARICOM) trade to increase soon, Barbados' Prime Minister, Bernard St. John, has advised businessmen not to look for a return of the glory days when Trinidad and Tobago absorbed large imports from Barbados.

Striking a rather conciliatory note, a far cry from the recent threats of

retaliation if Trinidad and Tobago did not implement the Nassau accords, Mr. St. John said in an interview that a hard economic fact of life was that Trinidad and Tobago's economy could not afford the high volume of imports of previous years when the country's oil industry was booming.

"We expect some break to occur in the CARICOM market," the Prime Minister said. "We all

recognise now, that it would be difficult for the economy of Trinidad and Tobago to continue to absorb the same level of goods that it used to absorb from the rest of the Caribbean when oil was bringing a much higher price. Reality dictates that we have to appreciate that fact."

However, Mr. St. John, who a few months ago threatened to impose restrictions on goods from Trinidad and Tobago, said that he had not given up on efforts to get the Trinidad Government to remove its protectionist system by implementing the Nassau Agreement.

"We are working very hard trying to convince the authorities in Trinidad that the Nassau Agreement should be implemented and to knock out the protectionist element there," was the way he put it.

But apart from Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. St. John said that Guyana could be on its way to an economic comeback, a development that would help CARICOM trade.

/9274

CSO: 3298/213

BARBADOS

POLICE TAKING NEW INITIATIVES IN FIGHT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 29 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

The Royal Barbados Police Force will be undertaking bold initiatives to deal with the island's drug problem. The initiatives include the offering of rewards for information leading to the detection of dealers.

This is the word from the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Orville Durant, who told a news conference yesterday of the police force's efforts to curb crime during the year and plans for the future.

Mr. Durant noted that while the police had always frowned on offering incentives to the public for information regarding criminal activity, his department would give "a reward equivalent to anything offered by drug traffickers which leads to success" in detecting the dealers.

Attorney-General, Mr. David Simmons recently announced that Government would be taking a tough stand with drug dealers and legislation was being prepared to confiscate their property among other stiffer penalties.

So far this year 213 people have been charged with drug offences as compared with 205 during the same

period last year. There have been five persons charged with possession of cocaine as compared with two last year.

In its efforts to deal with the drug problem, the Drug Squad has been beefed up and the force has been collaborating with the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, both of the United States, as well as Canadian and regional counterparts.

Mr. Durant who noted that drug abuse cuts across all social classes said there was a need to have education about the danger of drug abuse, but also favoured stiffer penalties, including a minimum period of 10 years' imprisonment and confiscation of property.

The Police Commissioner who noted that there had been stepped up collaboration between the local customs and coast guard officials, said it was the police force's intention to eliminate drug abuse from Barbados.

Apart from updated training for members of the Drug Squad, it is hoped that all members of the force will have some knowledge about dealing with drug abusers. In its efforts to help beat the drug

problem, the police will be hoping to use more dogs.

The beaches, which have been identified as an area where there is a drug abuse problem will be under scrutiny from the police. A number of policemen and rangers of the National Conservation Commission were trained recently at District 'A' Station to deal with the problems of drug abuse, harassment, molestation and other acts of lawlessness on the beaches and adjoining hotel premises.

"Many complaints of gross misconduct on the beaches are being received, and it is our intention to bring this type of conduct to a halt once and for all. This police operation is going to be tough, resolute and decisive," Commissioner Durant said.

"Vendors will not be allowed to sell in areas on the beaches other than those specially provided; accosting of people using the beaches can now lead to the arrest of offenders; soliciting the purchase of goods will result in prosecution and special operations have been set up to detect drug offences," Commissioner Durant said.

/9274

CSO: 3298/213

BARBADOS

IDB LOAN WILL ASSIST INDUSTRY, TOURISM, FISHING SECTORS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 28 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

A Bds \$12 million loan to provide credit for the industrial, tourism and fisheries sectors in Barbados was yesterday given approval by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In a press release from the IDB office in Barbados, it was stated that the loan would help finance the fourth stage of a credit programme for the above sectors of the local economy.

The programme, which will be carried out by the Barbados Development Bank (BDB), involves the provision of credit to finance the construction of facilities and modernisation of existing industrial and services equipment, machinery and tools.

The total cost of the programme will be \$20 million, with the IDB contributing \$12 million, and local sources tapped by the BDB, the remaining \$8 million.

In the tourism sector, it will assist in the construction or modernisation and refurbishing of existing tourist facilities and in fisheries, the purchase of fishing boats and equipment and the construction of fish processing and marketing facilities.

In all three sectors, provision will also be made for the purchase and installation of energy saving systems.

The programme will also provide financing for imported raw materials and spare parts, as well as technical co-operation to strengthen the BDB in the fields of industrial engineering and financial analysis.

Additionally, it will be aimed at

improving financial management and cost accounting systems in the small and medium size hotels.

The BDB is the main source of funds to entrepreneurs in Barbados, with a loan portfolio at the end of 1984 totalling \$82 million.

Bank resources from the three previous stages of the loan programme have financed 143 sub-loans for a total of \$30 million. They included 62 sub-loans for the tourist sector, 16 for industry and five for fisheries.

The projects carried out with these loans, according to the BDB, have resulted in the creation of 1 100 new jobs.

The loan approved by the IDB yesterday was extended from its inter-regional capital for a term of 15 years at a variable interest rate applicable to yearly disbursements and linked to the IDB's cost of borrowing funds.

It will be disbursed in US dollars and other non-Barbadian currencies, and will be repaid through semi-annual installments, the first of which will be due six months after the date of the last disbursement.

However, the IDB statement said yesterday that the approval of the loan was subject to final action when its board of executive directors determined that the funds were available.

It was noted that the IDB's member countries are currently taking steps to make payments on the third installment of their subscriptions and contributions under the sixth general increase in the resources of the bank to which they had agreed.

/9274

CSO: 3298/214

BARBADOS

BETTER QUANTITY, QUALITY OF CANE EXPECTED NEXT YEAR

Bridgetown WEEKEND NATION in English 1-2 Nov 85 p 3

[Excerpts]

THE QUANTITY of sugar cane reaped over each acre in the 1986 sugar harvest should be significantly more than this year.

That was predicted yesterday by director of the field section of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited (BSIL), Geoffrey Armstrong, and confirmed by executive director, Errie Deane.

In fact, Mr. Armstrong told the **WEEKEND NATION** that it just might turn out that the 600-acre reduction in canes planted this year might not be noticed in the overall quantity of cane harvested next year, when the two figures are compared.

Improved quality

Meanwhile, the improved quality of plant has brought delight to sugar officials, and according to Mr. Armstrong, it looks as though we "could be going back to the old time days when we reaped much more cane per acre".

He, however, was unable at the time to give figures on the quantity of cane expected over each acre next year, or the comparative figure for the last harvest.

In addition, Mr. Armstrong explained that the 600-acre reduction in sugar cultivation did not mean that lands had become idle, but was the result of a diversification programme.

He explained that a number of crops, like as cotton, peanuts and onions, had been planted and not a single acre which was in sugar cultivation had become idle.

/9274

CSO: 3298/214

BARBADOS

PUBLIC WORKERS UNION CALLS FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) has called on Labour Minister DeLisle Bradshaw to resign.

The NUPW is upset about Mr. Bradshaw's contention that his "hands are tied" because trade unions did not forward to him the names of employers who were denying their workers the right to join a trade union.

Mr. Bradshaw, in an address at a regional seminar on trade union rights described the practice by employers as "deplorable" and said that he was concerned about the trade unions' unwillingness to disclose the names of guilty employers.

But the NUPW said that it was the duty not only of the Minister but of the Government as a whole to protect the rights and freedom of its people. "This can easily be done by the Government putting in place the necessary legislation that would make it an offence for employers to pressure workers not to join unions of their own choosing."

The union said that the Government had the power to provide this safety net which was missing. According to the Union, it was because this safeguard was not in place that many workers were afraid to inform the appropriate agencies of this violation of their fundamental right.

In North America, Europe and a few Caribbean islands, there were clearly defined procedures for granting recognition to trade unions and for ensuring redress if the employer refused to comply, the NUPW submitted.

The NUPW also expressed concern about the suggestion that workers should accept reductions in wages and salaries to maintain jobs. The union suggested that Government look at the shorter work week and early retirement without a reduction in remuneration measures which it said were being used in some countries to alleviate the unemployment problem.

It said that the Government of Japan had offered at a recent ILO Convention, technical assistance to governments in working out mechanisms which could lead to a reduction in working hours while maintaining the same pay level to assist in employment and job security.

/9274

CSO: 3298/214

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES--Data from the Continuous Household Sample Survey show that the unemployment rate for the quarter July to September 1985 was 19.8 per cent. This compared with the figure of 16.7 percent for the period July to September 1984. The unemployment rates for the first and second quarters of 1985 were 17.4 percent and 19.3 percent respectively. The total number of adults increased from 177,000 in 1984 to 177,700 during the review quarter while the labour force fell marginally from 113,900 to 113,500 people. The number of people employed fell from 94,900 to 91,000 and the number unemployed rose from 19,000 in 1984 to 22,500 in 1985. Those people not in the labour force rose from 63,100 in 1984 to 64,200 in 1985. The labour force as a percentage of total adults fell from 64.4 percent in the third quarter of 1984 to 63.9 in the third quarter of 1985. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 23 Nov 85 p 1] /9274

INCIDENCE OF ARSON--The Government has expressed concern about the increasing incidence of fires at dwelling-houses and business places, and has said that all of them were not accidental. To this end, steps will be taken to update legislation dealing with arson and to train fire officers to cope with this problem. Attorney-General Mr David Simmons told this to the Annual General Meeting of the Fire Service Association at Fire Service Headquarters, Probyn Street yesterday. Mr Simmons told the officers that over the past three years or so, there was a worrying increase in the number of fires both at dwelling houses and business places. He added that his Ministry was analysing patterns, trends and circumstances. "Legislation has been drafted to update the laws of arson and the Ministry is actively pursuing training opportunities for Fire Officers to enable them to cope with arson," Mr Simmons said while praising the excellent work of the officers. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Nov 85 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/214

BELIZE

CLANDESTINE PUBLICATION IN NORTH BACKS UNITY WITH MEXICO

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 17 Nov 85 p 1

[Article: "Secessionists in Orange Walk Advocate Statehood with Mexico"]

[Text]

A surreptitious publication in Orange Walk calling itself "El Mirador" has been advocating secession of the Orange Walk and Corozal districts from Belize and integration with Mexico.

The publication accuses the Esquivel government of defrauding the North by being responsible for the closure of the Libertad cane factory and the sale of a big chunk of Orange Walk to "the Gringos".

It cites unemployment, anger, and victimization for its position and threatens to resort to arms and violence if the so-called "oppression" continues.

"Mirador takes note of the blood ties of the people of Orange Walk and Corozal with the people of Mexico and goes on to make the following

statement:

We of the North will not sit and watch ourselves being suppressed and ignored (knowing) our blood ties with Mexico. For this reason we will have no alternative but to fight for our sacred rights, our human rights. We have a right to aspire to a better life and to declare the north (of Belize) to be another free and sovereign state of the Mexican fatherland."

The typewriter used to produce El Mirador has a different type face from an earlier bulletin produced for the "Movimiento Canero."

But the drawings and cartoons in both publications are so similar and the lettering so identical that it is undantly clear that both publication used the same artist.

/12851
CSO: 3298/201

BELIZE

BRITISH AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES PLANS FOR AID

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 17 Nov 85 pp 1, 12

[Article: Britain Will Aid Agriculture and Tourism"]

[Text]

Britain will be placing more emphasis on our agricultural and tourism sectors in future economic aid to Belize.

This was revealed to the press last Tuesday at a news conference at the Fort George Hotel by the British High Commissioner to Belize, Mr. David Crosby. He stated too that Britain will continue cooperating with the Ministry of Works on road maintenance but is unlikely to be involved in major new road projects.

The British High Commissioner also outlined the British aided projects in Belize. He said that since Independence, British aid to Belize has totalled Bze\$60 million not including the recent 7.6 million pounds sterling agreement signed in July between both governments.

A large part of this

economic aid has gone on the building and rehabilitation of roads and bridges, said the British High Commissioner. Substantial aid has been provided for the Belize International Airport and the Toledo Research and Development Project.

Mr. Crosby also spoke of Britain's proposed future projects in Belize. Included is the construction of a new airport terminal building, the establishment of a nucleus farm near Punta Gorda, a land use survey in the Toledo District and improvements to the facilities at the Belize School of Agriculture. Britain will also be providing scholarships for Belizeans for training in the U.K.

In closing Mr. Crosby re-affirmed Britain's commitment to continue contributing substantially towards the economic development of Belize.

BELIZE

PUP INVOLVEMENT WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING ALLEGED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 16 Nov 85 pp 3, 10

[Text]

It was an open secret that while they were in government, the PUP tolerated and encouraged three large scale drug traffickers as cabinet members. There was never any possibility of bringing these ministers to trial, since the network of protection, cronyism, and cover up, had the blessings from on high.

Since the defeat of the PUP last December however, Eljio 'Joe' Briceno has been arrested, convicted, and sentenced in the United States of America. This was for marijuana activity in which he participated while he was a minister in George Price's cabinet. According to testimony at the trial, Briceno boasted to DEA officials that he controlled the Police. Since he was never minister in charge of the Police, some obvious conclusions must be drawn.

The People's United Party since the arrest of Briceno, has continued to

present itself as an alternative government of this country. Yet the party has made no effort to apologize to the electorate for the grievous betrayal of trust committed by Briceno while he was a minister of an actual PUP government. The PUP will not disassociate itself from the misdeeds of Briceno because it cannot. For there are those other ex-ministers who were very much a part of the drug ring, and who know the dangers of Briceno 'singing' to the authorities. They must therefore do nothing to provoke the wrath (and revelations) of Briceno.

Thus, the PUPs continue to support Briceno. Petitions on his behalf were signed by a number of their leaders, and they even sent people to testify on his behalf.

As if all that were not sufficient, the party organ has now taken up the case of one Rosella Fajardo, charged in the U.S.

with what is possibly a drug-related offence. The local lawyer for this lady is, needless to say, a PUP stalwart, and this connection is good for the party's coffers and the pockets of some of its officers.

All these factors then, explain why the PUP continues to be a part of the marijuana lobby. The government and citizens of Belize are engaged in a war against drugs, but the constitutional oppo-

sition champions the cause of this evil activity.

Well, the war must continue, for it is a just crusade, and an essential crusade. Indeed, the pressure must be stepped up; and if it has the effect of flushing out the PUPs, exposing their immorality as a party and bringing a few more of their leaders to justice, so much the better for the national well-being of Belize.

/12851

CSO: 3298/200

BELIZE

BRIEFS

NEW TREASURY HEAD--The Establishment Department this week announced the appointment of Miss Avril Blanche Cleland to the post of Accountant General. Miss Cleland, who before her appointment held the substantive post of Assistant Accountant General, becomes the first lady to be appointed head of the Government Treasury, and only the second to be appointed head of a government department. A thirty-two year career public officer, Miss Cleland has been acting as Accountant General since August 1984, following the sudden illness of her predecessor Mr. Harold W. Perriott, who died on September that same year. During her career, Miss Cleland successfully completed a six-week Certificate Course in Organisation and Management at the U.W.I. in Trinidad in 1972, and a five-month course in Public Accounts and Audit in the U.K. in 1976. Her elevation to the post of Accountant General takes effect from September 15, 1984. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 16 Nov 85 pp 1, 12] /12851

PUP CONSTITUENCY MEETING--Last Sunday in the village of Burrell Boom, supporters of the People's United Party gathered for a convention of the Belize Rural South Constituency. Hundreds of members and supporters of the Party from the villages of the Burrell Boom, Ladyville, Hattiville, Freetown Sibun, Gracie Rock, Caye Caulker and the Town of San Pedro unanimously elected Attorney-at-law Glenn Godfrey Chairman of the Belize Rural South Constituency. Other members of the Committee are: Gustavo Marin, Rudolf Gillett, Nilo Paz, Josefino Martinez, Austin Brown, Marcus Lewis, Bernard Robateau and Porfirio Guzman. Speakers included Party Leader Rt. Hon George Price, Hon. Jane Usher, Hon. Sam Wright, and Said Musa. The presence of the large number of supporters at Sunday's convention is a clear indication that the People's United Party is still strong and vibrant in Belize Rural South. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 17 Nov 85 p 12] /12851

CSO: 3298/201

CHILE

ICI PRESIDENT TALKS WITH OPPOSITION MEMBERS

PY121716 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2237 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 11 Dec (EFE)--Luis Yanez, Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation and president of the Institute for Ibero-American Cooperation [Instituto de Cooperacion Iberoamericana--ICI], stated today that "the Chilean people will triumph and will triumph soon."

After a meeting with top leaders of Chilean opposition parties, Yanez stated that "contrary to what had happened to me in my previous visit in 1978, this time I found a more optimistic and better organized Chilean people."

The Spanish secretary of state added that "following Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil, Chile is walking toward democracy and that objective seems to be closer than many imagine."

Yanez explained that the objective of his visit to Chile, which will end tomorrow, 12 December, was to lecture at the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA] and to make contacts with the democratic opposition, and in way to have an official or formal relationship with the Chilean Government." [quotation marks as received]

At the end of the meeting, "Democratic Alliance" president and former conservative Senator Armando Jaramillo stated that he had explained to the Spanish leader that the alliance "is not only a resistance pact, but a government for the future."

Moreover, Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party--the largest party in the country--stated that "the desire of the overwhelming majority in the country is that the military regime end, and therefore, we are united in a struggle that we hope will end very soon."

Carlos Briones, secretary general of the Socialist Party, stressed "the image of democratic Spain reflected in the continual solidarity of the Spanish Government and people."

Opposition labor union leader Rodolfo Seguel told Yanez, "I have just left prison with clean hands and am ready to continue fighting for the end of the great prison which all of Chile is."

/6091

CSO: 3348/276

CHILE

POLL REPORTEDLY SHOWS PINOCHET UNPOPULAR

PY101220 Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 3-9 Dec 85 p 6

[Text] CAUCE magazine's weekly poll, carried out by the Diagnos enterprise, which specializes in polls, had a great impact this week on readers. The question asked was:

"Government spokesmen say that the present government should last beyond 1989; opposition leaders say it should only stay until that year; and others say it should end before 1989. Which of these three opinions do you share?"

The analysis of the chart handed out by Diagnos shows that absolutely no one (0 percent) wants the present Pinochet government to go beyond 1989. We must make clear that this poll was carried out on 5 December, many days after the president's physical fitness program received massive publicity.

More than 83 percent shared the opinion that the present administration should leave before 1989.

A little over 13 percent agree that the administration should last until 1989.

It is also worth noting that none of the people interviewed were uninformed about the matter. That is, everyone had a very definite position in this regard.

This "snapshot" of public opinion could be an overwhelming sign to the organizers of the political palace banquets. More than luncheons and other effective actions will be necessary to obtain civilian votes for 1989. Otherwise the filming of morning joggers [referring to Pinochet's exercise program] will not only be expensive but useless.

/6091

CSO: 3348/276

CHILE

MDP SEES 1985 AS BAD YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PY110243 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] The Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] has reported that the human rights situation in Chile worsened in 1985, adding that the reconstruction of democracy will require the full respect for these fundamental rights. These statements were made by the main MDP leaders during a press conference this morning.

MDP Secretary General Jose Sanfuentes made a brief evaluation of the human rights situation in our country in 1985:

[Begin Sanfuentes recording] This year has been one of the worst years in the human rights field because of the violations committed by the dictatorship.

There has been an average 5.7 deaths each month in Chile and 18.7 attempted murders, 75 reported attacks against individuals, 979 cases of detention for political reasons, 12.3 banishments, and 43 threats.

This clearly shows a general worsening of the human rights situation in Chile. [end recording]

In turn, MDP Acting President German Correa read a public declaration denouncing human rights violations. He said that within a dramatic economic and social crisis framework the state of siege was established, concentrations camps were reopened, and atrocious murders were committed. He recalled the cases of Jose Manuel Parada, Santiago Nattino, Manuel Guerrero, Eduardo y Rafael Vergara Toledo, and Carlos Godoy Echevoyen. He also referred to the situation of the political prisoners as well as the imprisonment of union leaders and Father Renato Evia, director of MENSAJE magazine.

German Correa praised the work of the president of Supreme Court of Justice Rafael Retamal and of special judge Jose Canovas Robles, although he added that so far not one of the accused individuals has been found guilty or much less condemned. Within this context, he added, the reconstruction of democracy in Chile demands the full exercise of human rights.

[Begin Correa recording] The democratic reconstruction of Chile will require the full respect for human rights, therefore justice will be a basic condition to achieve a real reconciliation in Chile. Just as the people will totally oppose revenge, which achieves nothing because the lives of those who struggle for freedom are priceless, the people will also oppose any attempt that might be made to forget all the committed crimes. Never again--is and will be the slogan used to demand investigations and fair punishment of those who are responsible for the violations.

The thorough democratization of the Chilean state is also necessary, particularly among the Armed Forces, the forces of order, and the judicial branch itself, to prevent a permanent threat of a fascist coup against the Chileans, as well as to ensure an adequate defense in face of the attempts to violate the people's rights. [end recording]

The MDP leaders concluded by saying that 1986 will be the year of the recovery of democracy and human rights in Chile. They also announced their support of all the actions planned to celebrate the anniversary of the human rights declaration in Chile.

/6091

CSO: 3348/276

CHILE

LABOR LEADERS CALL WAGE HIKES WELCOME BUT INADEQUATE

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Nov 85 p C-1

[Text] The announcement the president of the republic made last Tuesday about an increase in wages for the public sector as well as in the minimum wage received a positive reaction from the union leaders consulted. The latter increase mainly helps workers in the private sector.

They agreed that the measure meant some relief for the workers. However, several of them said it is "still inadequate."

Edmundo Lillo, acting president of CEPCH [Chilean Confederation of Private Sector Employees], thought 90 percent of the 700,000 workers in the trade sector receive the minimum wage as their basic pay. Therefore, the announced readjustment "constitutes a relief" for them.

He said that the measure answers the appeal made not only by the workers of that sector but also the Confederation of Retail Trade. He stated that it will encourage sales which will benefit national activity.

Rene Sotolicchio, president of the Association of Municipal Workers, revealed: "The news makes us happy since any increase in wages is positive." He stated: "Many problems are caused by the fact that the minimum wage is inadequate. Therefore, this measure pleases us."

The leader indicated that the income of the workers has suffered constant devaluation since August 1981. Therefore, this measure is a palliative.

The current president of ANEF [National Association of Government Employees], Milenko Mihovilovic, called the readjustment "encouraging but inadequate."

He stated that, in his opinion, "the government must offer at least the IPC [Consumer Price Index] adjustment owed to the public workers since August 1981 which, according to the INE [National Institute of Statistics], is about 131 percent. Since that date, only 63 percent has been paid to those who earn less than 10,000 pesos and 52 percent to the others."

Union leader Julio Lagos, president of the National Confederation of Chilean Truck Owners, stated: "By definition, any wage increase is welcome." He

added: "The public sector is one of the most affected sectors in the country. I think this increase should have been given earlier. There must be another readjustment after this one to help make up for the loss the working people have experienced in their purchasing power."

Lamberto Perez, president of the Sole Trade Union of the State Bank, said that although the readjustment does not affect them since they are covered by the collective bargaining system, "it is a good measure that rewards the efficiency of the public sector."

However, he regretted that "while the government seeks ways to improve the situation of the workers, violent sectors are developing actions that do nothing but terrorize the country."

Aquiles Petit, president of the Foundation for Labor Studies, called the announcement "very important" since these are difficult times for most of the workers, especially those who earn between the minimum wage and 25,000 pesos.

He stated that future collective bargaining should include a "minimum market basket" that insures the workers and their families "sustenance based on their needs."

Sergio Troncoso, president of the Confederation of Construction Workers, stated that the readjustment "is an inadequate palliative. It comes at a time when not only the workers but also the business sectors are presenting their just demands."

"We must view this announcement with approval, but we think that the resources that the state receives from private international banking should contribute to a more equitable wage policy."

7717

CSO: 3348/205

CHILE

MILITARY, CHURCH, POLITICAL LEADERS CONDEMN CARABINERO DEATH

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Nov 85 pp A-1, C-2

[Text] The terrorist attack that took the life of Carabineros private 1st class Santiago Trincado and seriously wounded private 1st class Luis Naranjo provoked unanimous repudiation yesterday from various government officials, political leaders, and the church.

The assassination was carried out by an extremist command in Providencia the night before last. The soldier was shot twice in the head and back. His funeral will be held at the Cementerio General today after a Mass in the Carabineros Non-Commissioned Officers School at 10:15.

Two members of the Government Junta, General Rodolfo Stange and Admiral Jose T. Merino Castro, expressed the need for national mobilization against violence. Minister of Justice Hugo Rosende revealed that indifference toward these actions leads to complicity, even if unintentional. The minister secretary general of government, Francisco Javier Cuadra, indicated that these actions are part of a "subversive strategy."

Gen Stange

Rodolfo Stange, general director of the Carabineros and a member of the Government Junta, called for "social mobilization against violence" to repudiate the attack.

He was deeply affected by the action and emphasized that he believes that this action was planned.

During a breakfast meeting in his office with reporters from the legislative sector, the officer recognized that violence has become worse in recent times. He expressed his concern about this.

When asked about this subject, he stated: "I am a man of few words. I like actions. I am affected by actions. I hope that the groups that always make statements on human rights also condemn these actions. Surely they will make statements. I hope so."

He added: "Since there is so much talk about pacification, remediation of the attack would also be appropriate."

He emphasized that this type of action essentially affects the Carabineros because they are the visible concern for civic order and security. The attacks will not affect the motivations of the institution, no matter how hard the extremist organizations try.

Adm Merino

Gen Stange's statement was supported by the commander in chief of the Navy and head of the legislative branch, Adm Jose T. Merino. He revealed: "Everyone must be against violence because no one can be safe in a country where it exists."

At the end of the regular session of the Government Junta held in the afternoon in the Diego Portales Building, the admiral stated: "Why did we take over the government in 1973? Because violence was so bad then that there were problems in the street. No one felt safe sending his children to school. That is what we want to avoid."

The admiral reaffirmed to reporters who cover the Diego Portales Building that he advocates dialogue with those who understand him. However, "only bullets are left for Communists or members of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]." "

He stated: "I mean that dialogue is a system of communication between people who have differences in some area. Of course, there cannot be dialogue with Communists or the members of the MIR. The only form of dialogue they use and understand is with bullets. With them, it is necessary to simply use bullets. With the rest of the people who have ideas, are educated and capable of talking, dialogue is the best way to reach an understanding if the objective is to govern in peace."

When asked what he attributes these violent acts to, he answered: "Communism works to incite the masses, trying to establish the conviction that countries can only be governed by means such as they use."

He also stressed: "There cannot be agreement of ideas between people who use only the pistol, machinegun, bomb or arson and human beings who are peaceful people who follow the laws, who respect coexistence and who can do what we are doing, talking."

He added: "The solution is to eliminate Communism."

Minister of Justice

Minister of Justice Hugo Rosende stated at La Moneda that terrorism "is harm or evil that spreads very deeply. There is no room for indifferent or ambiguous positions toward it."

The minister indicated that "the government has absolute solidarity with the victims, particularly with the relatives of the victims," of these actions.

He stated that terrorism, "which, with these actions, is indicating that it is everywhere, deserves an immediate, absolute, and total reaction." At the same time, he expressed his "surprise at not having heard or read vehement reactions toward a deed like this."

He said: "To hold a weak position toward acts of this type frequently means unintentionally becoming accomplices of terrorism."

He stated: "The government will adopt appropriate measures in accord with the law which will indicate the procedures that should be used for this, especially the antiterrorist law that includes the entire court procedure."

Asked if he favored a state of siege, he revealed that he was against it because "it does not seem appropriate to me. The legal instruments are provided to fight and stop actions like this."

He added: "The citizens must take a position of solidarity, intransigence, strength, and prevention--without reaching the point where it can be called 'informing' or persecution--in order to indicate where the actual terrorist bands might be."

Archbishop

The Archbishop of Santiago energetically condemned the aggression against the two Carabineros and the subsequent death of one of them.

The archbishop's statement was as follows:

"Facing the new aggression against two Carabineros who were carrying out their duty when one was killed and the other seriously wounded, the Archbishop of Santiago states:

"1. He most energetically condemns this criminal act.

"2. He expresses his condolences to the relatives of private 1st class Santiago Trincado Rojas who was murdered in this attack.

"He also shows his solidarity with private 1st class Luis Naranjo Valenzuela who is seriously wounded at the Carabineros Corps of Chile.

"3. During the Month of Mary which we are celebrating, we implore that all homicidal violence in our beloved fatherland cease."

National Agreement

The coordinator of the National Agreement for Transition to Complete Democracy, Sergio Molina, yesterday expressed the concern and condemnation of the groups of the right, center and left that signed that document toward the terrorist actions that have killed different people.

Molina revealed that these actions and the situation of the union leaders held in the Capuchinos Jail Annex at the request of the Ministry of Interior "do not help national reconciliation."

Minister Cuadra

Francisco Javier Cuadra, minister secretary general of government, yesterday condemned the terrorist attack that killed one Carabineros officer. He indicated: "It is part of the subversive strategy that, with the campaign of rumors and misinformation, tries to create a feeling of anarchy. The Marxist movements as well as those of the so-called democratic opposition are united in this."

Minister Cuadra said that there had been a similar campaign in recent months focused mainly on attacking the Carabineros. He added that this plan has been developed particularly because of public opinion generated by the judicial investigation of the death of three Communist leaders last March.

He added: "Attacks like last night's (night before last) are obviously unfortunate from the human point of view but, from the political and institutional point of view, they are absolutely explicable as part of the strategy that the government has denounced so many times. Many try to put up a smoke curtain around this accusation by the government. They do not speak out on the exact causes of violence which is part of the strategy conceived and planned abroad in close relationship with Marxist groups."

Asked if perhaps these deeds tend to create a feeling of anarchy, Cuadra answered: "The basic objective of opposition activity since December 1983 has been to produce the feeling of anarchy of the country. The Marxist movements--that is, Communists, Socialists and the MIR--as well as the movements of the so-called 'democratic opposition' agree on this. Their work plan is to achieve anarchy through civil disobedience and social mobilization. We have often told the country that the favorite instrument for this is the 'peaceful protests' that generate discontent and uneasiness in the people and that only help all those people who seek power in order to protect their vulgar activities."

Cuadra stated that one extremist movement held a clandestine conference a few days ago to point out that the conditions in Chile are ripe for insurrection against the government. He said: "Since 1982, the PC [Communist Party] has supported Moscow's thesis of setting the stage for popular insurrection against the government. The strategy of social mobilization followed by the so-called democratic opposition scenes were basic for this strategy. It is essential to keep in mind what Luis Corvalan said: there is only a difference in shade between that social mobilization and the democratic parties and the popular insurrection of the Marxist left. Basically, in unity and in practice, the struggle--as he calls it--would produce joint work."

National Union

The president of National Union, Andres Allamand, said yesterday that "this cold and calculated crime against a member of the Carabineros Corps who was

doing routine vigilance demonstrates the existence of a plan to undermine the morale of that institution and terrorize the country."

He added: "Once more, the political criminals reward the selfless work of the Carabineros with a brutal madness that has shaken the citizens."

7717

CSO: 3348/205

CHILE

NATION SUPPORTS UK DECISION TO LEAVE UNESCO

PY101431 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Dec 85

[International commentary by Professor Carlos Velazco]

[Excerpts] During the weekend we received two reports regarding the United Nations. They differ in that one is positive in spirit but negative in essence while the other is quite the opposite.

The second report concerns the UK Government's decision to withdraw from UNESCO. This decision increases the crisis of that international agency, whose politicization has pushed it to become a tool of socialist initiatives against freedom of the press, human rights, and the (?protests) of the Western world regarding arms control.

Moreover, it has an ineffective and costly administration which has only yielded inconsequential programs or undertakings that have clearly sided with a certain ideology. This is why the United States, which provided 25 percent of a budget totaling about \$400 million per year, left UNESCO at the end of last year, and why the United Kingdom, which paid 4.6 percent of this budget, has also decided to leave the organization.

Therefore, it is obvious that only if the socialist world makes a large contribution will UNESCO avoid collapse. Nevertheless, this is highly unlikely. Up to now, the Soviet Union has assiduously taken advantage of the generosity of the Western world to finance large undertakings at the international level while it has used its own contributions to finance the production of arms and to supply logistical support in those areas which it has been able to infiltrate.

It is this policy which has aroused the disgust of non-Marxist nations. This is why this second report is apparently negative, since it means that an organization that was established to promote cooperation among its members in the fields of education is in crisis. But despite its specific postulates, UNESCO has caused more controversy than any of the other 13 specialized UN agencies.

However, in essence this is a positive report since this policy of force that is being exercised by Western-world nations may be able to save the organization from the erroneous paths that UNESCO was pushed into by those who resort to any pretext to propagate the preeminence of the state.

/6091

CSO: 3348/276

JPRS-LAM-86-004
10 January 1986

CIVIL SERVANTS WARNED ABOUT IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Dec 85 p 51

[Article: "Government Promises What it can Perform -- Charles"]

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica (CANA) — The Dominica government has warned striking civil servants here against letting themselves be used by opponents of different ideological persuasion seeking to destabilise the country.

Pro-western Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, in her second radio broadcast last Friday, since an estimated 2,000 public workers began an indefinite strike over wage increases yesterday, urged the civil servants to reconsider their action in light of the government's stated inability to pay.

Miss Charles said that persons who were not civil servants were attending the meetings of the Civil Service Association (CSA) — the workers bargaining agent — and encouraging them to take industrial action.

"The presence of persons who are not members of the CSESA, but who share an ideology whose main aim is to upset the country was very noticeable, so therefore the results of these meetings are very obvious," she said.

"I know when the civil servants sit back and think on those things

they will know what is happening and will not allow themselves to be used," she said.

Miss Charles said that the civil servants who have given up their work in the essential services will no doubt be considering their position within the course of the day "because the persons who have advised them to go out on strike must have drawn their attention to the legislation on essential services."

The industrial action hit virtually all departments of government, including the lone general hospital, the Fire Service and the airport, disrupting flight schedules.

But Miss Charles said her administration was "determined that you will be served to the best of our ability and daily the services will improve as we obtain the assistance of persons to replace the civil servants who have given up the work they were previously performing for you."

"In the meantime work continued in most departments, we continue with the development plans for Dominica," she added.

CSA general secretary Arthur Smith accused the government of "misleading the public with false information, twisting facts and concealing

information."

Smith told reporters: "If the government continues to make it a political issue we will have to seek alternative measures."

Asked to comment on the possibility of striking workers being replaced Smith said, "that is the usual thing, every government has said so in the past".

Smith said about 80 per cent of the civil service work force had headed the strike call. A skeleton staff was in place in some essential services, such as the prisons and health services, he added.

The government and the union are odds over a

new three-year collective agreement. The CSA is demanding a 10 per cent wage hike this year, followed by a 12.5 per cent next year and a further 10 per cent in 1987.

Government has said that it can afford a 7.5 per cent hike this year followed by five per cent increases annually over the next two years.

Miss Charles said government was not prepared to make any promise to the civil servants which it could not keep as governments of the past did.

"Government can only make promises when it knows it can perform," she declared.

/12851

CSO: 3298/215

BUSINESS LEADER CITES SHORTCOMINGS HURTING CBI

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 28 Nov 85 p 6

[Article: "Reagan's 'Basin is Leaking'"]

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Wednesday (AP) — The President of the Grenada Employer Federation charged Wednesday that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative "is leaking."

"In a speech at the organisation's Annual General Meeting, William Otway said that before Grenadian businessmen can consider joint ventures with foreign capital, tax structures and other problems hindering the development of local projects must be corrected.

"We must first be able to invest in ourselves before we can ask anyone to invest in us," Otway said.

"We have many prospective investors who come and go, and they will continue to come and go, but we have no where else to go and we must look after our own."

He said the existing tax structure in Grenada must be "changed across the board," with revisions in import, personal income and corporate taxes.

Otway was also critical of politicians he said exploit the poor to gain power.

He said that while the people have a right to employment, education and equal opportunity, "unfortunately we also have in our society the politician ... who desires to use those people to springboard himself into popularity, to ride on the backs of the people, to gain favour for the majority over the minority."

Otway called on the Government, unions and business to work together "for one cause, destiny, people and country."

/12851

CSO: 3298/216

GRENADA

APER CALLS FOR QUICK GOVERNMENT ACTION ON CONSTITUTION

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 16 Nov 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Early Action Please"]

[Text]

IT is a well known fact that Government files are bulging with "Reports" and "Studies" and "Papers" representing the results of investigations, inquiries, studies, etc into community life, problems and needs. It will, even, we feel certain, be a profitable exercise to institute an investigation into all of these, with a view to putting into effect those that are still appropriate to our current needs and aspirations for there is no doubt that there lies a veritable gold mine which ought to be "worked" for our benefit instead of continuing to gather dust.

Three reports we do not want to see consigned to the morgue are the one from the Constitution Review Commission, the one on organisation and methods in the civil service and the one on the divestment of state enterprises which are a drain on the meagre public purse. Indeed we want to urge the speediest possible examination and, where desirable, implementation of these reports.

Action on all is very urgently needed, but unquestionably the most important and urgent is that of the Constitution Review Commission since it must have some recommendations regarding our Courts and this cries out for immediate action.

We note that the Prime Minister has commented on the fewness of copies and we also note that several members of the Cabinet are frequently out of the island. We suggest, however, that dealing with this report expeditiously is far

more important than any conference - including the NNP convention - and, if necessary, we must forego some of these and subject the report to a thorough study by ALL Parliamentarians even in a workshop. For this purpose it may be necessary to summon a special meeting of Parliament to lay the report on the table and appoint a committee of the whole of 'BOTH houses to study the document and make recommendations for a time-table of implementation in order of urgency and importance.

And fewness of copies must be no more of an excuse for delay than pre-occupation with other matters. Nor must we wait on typists and printers. A photocopying machine would produce a hundred copies in a quick time and even we, in our impecunious state, would make a few copies for government without charge. Which brings us to our next point: the report must not be treated as secret - 'indeed few reports to government should be so regarded and should be made available to the public, even at charge - and there must ultimately be the widest possible discussion of the matter.

We are aware that having appointed the Commission, government seemed to go cold on it, being slow to provide it with funding, failing to provide it with an office, coming close to truncating its existence and eventually, we understand, dispensing with the services of the Secretary before the Commission had completed its work - presumably for "lack of funds." (We understand that the Secretary undertook to see the matter through, without recompense, and we praise him for this.) But, with all the valuable work that the Government is doing to improve the infrastructure and uplift the economy there is nothing more important than getting our Constitutional position - and especially the judicial aspect - put in order, for that is the basis for the operation of the state.

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT FORMS COUNCIL TO DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 9 Nov 85 pp 1, 16

[Article: "National Economic Council Formed"]

[Text]

IT was revealed in the Throne speech read by Her Majesty the Queen, at the opening of Parliament last week, that Government has established a National Economic Council to draft a National Development Strategy Plan for the next five years.

Members of the Council, with the Prime Minister as Chairman, are Ministers George Brizan (Agriculture, Tourism, Fisheries), Francis Alexis (Labour) and, Keith Mitchell (Communications and Works) Ministry of Finance officials Lauriston Wilson Jr.

(Director) Cecilia Quashie (Consultant) and Terrence Moore, Permanent Secretary Agriculture, Denis Noel, General Manager National Commercial Bank, Michael Archibald and representing the Private Sector, Mrs. Margaret Grainger (Farming), Mr. Richard Grey (Hotel Association), Mr. Brain Pitt (Chamber of Industry and Commerce) and Mr. Abel Newton. (T.U.C.)

The Council held its first meeting on August 29 and held two subsequent meetings, while the Prime Minister

was abroad, under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Ben Jones. Another meeting was carded for Thursday but this was pushed back to later in the month.

Commenting on the establishment of the Council, Chamber President Brian Pitt said "We see it (the NEC) as probably the most important Committee set up by the Prime Minister and a useful forum for the Private Sector to express our opinion on our role in the development of the National Economy". Asked whether he had the feeling that the views of the Private Sector were being taken seriously Mr. Pitt said that he did. "I believe in the forum "he said" even though, it tends to be Public Sector dominated we have a rare opportunity to record our concerns about the future national

economic growth, and the solving of the unemployment problem."

The President of the Chamber went on to say "In today's world both the Public and Private Sectors have a role to play in the accumulation of national wealth and a joint responsibility in looking after the national debt." He said that his organisation is concerned about the reasons Grenada has not been able to attract the type of investment which is absolutely needed for economic growth and would like to recommend possible solutions." Each sector has been requested to put forward its inputs for the overall plan and the Chamber was working hard, with assistance from CAIC, to put forward a comprehensive document. SIR Fred told GRENADIAN VOICE that working on the Commission to

review a Constitution which had been so badly battered was a unique experience which was full of interest, and one that he will always remember. He thoroughly enjoyed it and knew that this was also true for the other Commissioners.

He said he could not say what the next stop would be but he was pleased to hear Her Majesty the Queen say in her Throne Speech last week that her government will give care-

ful consideration to the report of the Constitution Commission.

The Chairman would not say anything about the recommendations but he was high in praise for the many Grenadians who submitted memoranda to the Commission and he recalled with amusement that one had said that reviewing a constitution after experiences such as Grenada had gone through was as rare as the virgin birth."

/12851

CSO: 3298/206

GRENADA

NNP IN-FIGHTING DESCRIBED, AS CONVENTION NEARS

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 23 Nov 85 p 1

[Article: "NNP Convention Intrigue"]

[Text]

INTRIGUE has begun to develop within the ranks of the New National Party (NNP) as the date for their National Convention nears and this is causing much concern among party members as well as the public.

The Convention set for December 8 will be the first National Convention of the party which is an amalgamation of three separate parties and was swept into power with a convincing and popular fourteen out of fifteen seats in General Elections held on December 3, 1984. Business on the

agenda includes the adoption of the draft constitution and, the election of officers of the party, including Chairman Political leader, Deputy Leader and General Secretary.

Despite an earlier attempt by some of the younger members of the party in parliament, to revolt against the leadership of Prime Minister Herbert

Blaize, it appears that the party has learnt that the public will not welcome this kind of disruption, and Mr. Blaize's election as Political

Leader is likely to be a mere formality.

However much jockeying and serious campaigning is reported to have surrounded the other important positions with certain members of the party alleging that an inner alliance has been formed between the factions of Blaize's Grenada National Party (GNP) and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) led, before the merger, by Dr. Francis Alexis Minister of Labour. Some members of the party claim that money is being offered to delegates to secure the election of chosen candidates for the top posts.

It appears certain that Minister of Legal Affairs Ben Jones, who has been chosen by Mr. Blaize to act as Prime Minister during his absences from the island, will not be elected as De-

puty Political Leader which would qualify him for the position of Deputy Prime Minister, and suggestions are that Jones or Senator Norton

Noel will be given the post of Chairman of the Party. Sources within the party also say that part of the deal between GNP and GDM is that Dr. Alexis will be elected Deputy Political Leader and Minister of Communications and Works Dr. Keith Mitchell is tipped for the influential post of General Secretary of the Party.

Another matter causing concern among party members is the fact that the draft agenda provides that the election of officers will be a hurried affair with candidates not being allowed to address the convention, no discussion permitted and delegates being allowed only two minutes to make submissions

while nominat-
ing their
candidates.

Political ob-
servers are
fearful that
disharmony in
the ruling party
at this time
could send the
wrong signals
to the country
and the people
taking an in-
terest in help-
ing Grenada and
could create an
opening for the
revival of un-
desirable elements
if supporters of
the New National
Party become dis-
illusioned.

/12851

CSO: 3298/206

GRENADA

MINISTER OF LABOR ALEXIS DENIES 'RESIGNATION' STORY

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 16 Nov 85 p 3

[Article: "Alexis not Resigning"]

[Text]

HON. Francis Alexis, Minister of Labour, has denied that he

has threatened to resign from his post as was alleged by a Radio Station in the Region.

The Minister told GRENADIAN VOICE that he had received a request from a certain businessman in the island for a work permit to bring an Indian from India to manage his business while he is away; but the Minister said "I have no intention to issue such a permit and my statement was to the effect that the only way such a permit might be obtained was from a new Minis-

ter of Labour."

Alexis has been anxious about ensuring that Grenadians are given every opportunity of filling available positions in enterprises in the country and he used the occasion of the opening of a Medical Centre in his Constituency last week Sunday to hit out at businessmen - particularly only menial jobs while reserving managerial positions for non-nationals.

It is understood that the Minister is seeking to secure legislation which will give him the authority to prosecute who break the Law in relation to Work Permit.

JAMAICA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF TRINIDAD-TOBAGO'S PRIME MINISTER

Chambers' UWI Speech

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 17 Nov 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago has urged that the region must strive to establish the economic conditions which cater for the material needs of its peoples, ensuring that they benefit from advances in the wider world.

"Where our forefathers needed bravery and fortitude in the largest measure, we now need creative foresight and keen comprehension of the direction of modern technology," Mr Chambers said as he compared the centuries of colonial rule to the two decades of Independence.

Mr Chambers was addressing the 1985 graduation ceremony of the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, last night.

His address followed the conferment of the degrees of Honorary Doctor of Laws on the Hon. Clive Lloyd, former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team and Attorney-at-law John Carey, member of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies.

Glowing citations in honour of both gentlemen were read in unflinching eloquence by the UWI's public orator, Professor Edward Baugh.

In his address, Prime Minister Chambers suggested that leaders from all walks of life and every sphere of endeavour must foster the emergence of a set of principles which were broadly shared and which like beacons, served to guide nations of the region.

"Our leaders must continually nurture and reinforce the democratic institutions through which our populations have the opportunity to share in national decision-making along democratic lines," he said.

He claimed that Caribbean peoples were today far from enjoying a standard of living commensurate to their contribution to the western economic system of which they were a part and had contributed handsomely to its prosperity.

In his charge to the graduates, he urged them to be vigilant in the task they made today for they would not escape the consequences.

"I exhort you not to think of yourself as a part of a privileged elite or of a social class apart from the ordinary citizen. Instead be modest, but dignified, humble but resilient and strong."

Tribute

Also addressing the graduates was the Chancellor, Sir Allen Lewis who paid tribute to the late Dr. E.V. Ellington, Professor Reginald Murray and Dr. John Gilmour.

In the last academic year, he said that the University had an output from its three campuses and the Centre for Hotel and Tourist Management in the Bahamas of 1,582 first degrees; 114 higher degrees; 567 diplomas, certificates and licences in a variety of areas.

Mona's share of these included 721 students with first degrees, 29 with higher degrees, 126 with diplomas, and 31 with certificates. Sir Allen singled out Dr. Evan Dale Abel and Maureen Heron who created history

in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and General Studies, respectively.

Also present at the function were the Governor General, Sir Flor-

izel Glasspole and Lady Glasspole, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Hugh Shearer and the Minister of Education, the Hon. Mavis Gilmour.

Dinner Speeches

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Nov 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have a responsibility and duty to ensure the continuity and viability of the regional integration movement, Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, the Hon. George Chambers, said Sunday night.

Speaking at a dinner held in his honour by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, at Jamaica House, Mr. Chambers would not comment on recent suggestions for another attempt at Federation: "Suffice it to say that both you (Prime Minister Seaga) and I, privately and publicly, are committed to the continuation and deepening of CARICOM."

Speaking at the same function, Mr. Seaga had said that the Government and people of Jamaica "remained fully committed to the programme of regional co-operation and economic integration."

At yesterday's luncheon Mr. Chambers invited Prime Minister Seaga to pay an official visit to his country. Both leaders are to discuss dates for the visit.

Mr. Chambers who arrived in the island on Friday, leaves today. Yesterday, he met with Mr. Seaga and Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer at Jamaica House prior to having lunch with them

courtesy of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. He later visited the Spring Plain agricultural project in Clarendon and had a press conference at the Wyndham Hotel, New Kingston, where he and his party stayed.

A Jamaica House release following the talks said that the Prime Ministers discussed the economies of their countries and strategies for structural adjustment as well bilateral trade, and that it was generally agreed by both sides that the discussions were enlightening and useful.

Mr. Chambers told Sunday night's dinner that notwithstanding the fact that the region was facing difficult times which were "largely not of our doing at all, and in respect of many of the problems we have absolutely no control over them, I think it is important for the future of the integration movement that the two major partners of the movement should be talking to each other.

"It is not only important, but I believe we have a responsibility and a duty to the integration movement and the West Indian peoples, to ensure that the two major parties do all that they can to ensure the continuity of the integration movement and the viability of the integration movement.

"I am therefore very heartened by your renewed commitment of support for that and I need hardly say that from the standpoint of Trinidad and Tobago, we remain fully committed in our resolve to ensure that not only the continuation of the integration movement but, if I might say so, the deepening of that integration movement.

"I do not propose to say anything on Federation today, suffice it to say that both you and I, privately and publicly, are committed to the continuation and deepening of CARICOM."

/9274
CSO: 3298/217

JAMAICA

JLP HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE; SEAGA CONFRONTS ISSUES

Reports on Proceedings

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 24 Nov 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The 42nd annual conference of the Jamaica Labour Party gets into high gear today with the convening of the public session, which is to be addressed by Prime Minister Edward Seaga on such important national issues as Jamaica's future dealing with the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Seaga will also announce steps to be taken to deal with the current economic situation as well as review the progress made in the economy so far.

This was disclosed at a press briefing given by the Chairman of the Party, the Hon. Bruce Golding, at the JLP headquarters yesterday. Mr. Golding also said that there were 8,000 accredited delegates to the conference this year, representing various constituencies.

Crowds from late yesterday had started to converge on the National Arena for today's public session which is to be also addressed by Grenada's Prime Minister, the Hon. Herbert Blaize and Dominica's Prime Minister, the Hon. Eugenia Charles, who arrived in the island yesterday.

Mr. Golding described the mood at the conference as reflecting a "spirit of determination".

All officers of the Party whose positions were for election were returned *en bloc*. They are: Leader, Mr. Seaga; Deputy Leaders, the Hon. Parnell Charles, the Hon. Enid Bennett, the Hon. Percival Broderick, and the Hon. Neville Lewis.

The Trustees are the Hon. Lady Bustamante, Mr. L.G. Newland, and Miss Edith Nelson.

Resolutions were passed dealing with the administration of Government programmes, the situation in South Africa, the impact of Government's programme on the nation and the problem of communication.

The upcoming Parish Council elections, due at the end of this year, was also discussed, according to Mr. Golding, as this was likely to be the last conference before the elections.

He dismissed charges of delaying tactics by the JLP members of the Electoral Advisory Committee, adding that the Party was only now in a position to respond to proposals from the committee after consultations with various elements in the JLP.

He said he wished to give the "unqualified assurance" that the safety of all journalists attending the conference would be guaranteed. Mr. Golding said he had received a letter from the President of the Press Association of Jamaica, Mr. Gladstone Wilson, complaining about the treatment of two journalists at a combined constituency conference in Eastern and Southeast St. Andrew.

He said that he had investigated the matter and found that no threats were made to journalists but statements were made which could have inflamed the minds of others against journalists. He repeated his Party's commitment to the protection of journalists and a free press.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Nov 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

A MAJOR TAX reform package of about \$200 million to be implemented over a three-month period was announced by Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday.

Addressing JLP supporters at the Party's 42nd annual conference at the National Arena, Mr. Seaga said: "Those who did not pay taxes before will have to pay now."

He made the announcement against the background of what he said was the Government's intention to provide Income Tax relief beginning next January. Jamaica, he said, had the second highest rate of income tax in the world, behind India.

The Tax Reform Committee had carried out a study over the last two years which the Government had looked at, Mr. Seaga said, adding that he would be tabling the Committee's report in the House of Representatives tomorrow.

He said that he had requested the Committee to hold hearings from the public and report to him before December so that the new rates of income tax could come into effect January next year.

Tabling of the Committee's report would give such groups as the teachers, nurses, police and factory workers the opportunity to view its contents.

Mr. Seaga told his cheering supporters that the work of the Tax Reform Committee was one reason why the Government was unable to carry out discussions about their claims for wages until those groups were able to see the proposals.

He said that the tax reform programme would cost between \$180 million and \$200 million.

All those who did not pay taxes before would have to pay now as the Government would have to find the money to reduce the rate of income tax which, he said, was at a very high level and which had to be brought

down to a reasonable level.

The only thing that the current payers of taxes would get in terms of tax relief was what was justified, he said.

"We are not feeding or spoon-feeding anyone except those at the lower level," he told his supporters. "We treat everyone fair and square."

Dealing with devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, Mr. Seaga said that with every devaluation there was an increase in basic food items. However, he outlined the positive benefits that devaluation was having on the farming community in higher prices for produce; and on the tourism and exporting sectors.

He said that the foreign-exchange auction had nothing to do with setting the price for foreign exchange; instead, this was a matter of supply and demand at the auction.

The Prime Minister said that when the Jamaican dollar was at \$6.40 Jamaican to \$1 U.S. Labourites got timid when the PNP began to demonstrate but on returning from abroad he had claimed that the dollar could not stay at \$6.40.

His advisors, he said, told him that he could not trouble the exchange rate at \$6.40 because the IMF would not like this. However, he had taken steps to "lick" the exchange rate back to \$5.50.

Mr. Seaga said that he had heard word from Washington following this move that the rate of \$5.50 was the right rate of exchange. "The difficulty

is how to deal with the IMF, not to run away," he said.

There would not be a complete round of price increases on all items, but a few increases here and there would occur, he said, pointing out that many merchants had begun to fix their prices when the rate was \$6.40.

A meeting of all merchants had been called for next Friday at Jamaica House where he would tell them that he expected them to roll back the prices, Mr. Seaga said, and he expected to get their co-operation.

If they refused to roll back, he said, the Government had power to summon the merchants to ask them why they were selling their goods at a certain price. "If the price they're selling at is unjustified, I have to roll back the prices," he declared.

On the Government's redundancy programme, Mr. Seaga said that there was no other choice but to lay-off workers in the public sector, because if this was not done, it would bring "grief" to the whole nation.

Most of the redundancies were now behind, but there were a few more areas to deal with, such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Local Government.

Touching on the call by the People's National Party for elections, the Leader of the JLP said that the Government would not be calling elections. His announcement that in the first three weeks of December he would be touring the island to talk with Parish Councillors, had drawn the interpretation from the PNP that he would be calling elections.

"Under our system of Government, it's the Government which decides when to call elections, not the Opposition," he declared, to shouts of approval.

/9274

CSO: 3298/217

JAMAICA

PNP EXPLAINS WHY IT SEEKS ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Nov 85 p 8

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

WE HAVE to reply to your editorial of Saturday, November 16, so that the important issues involved may be clearly identified and the position of the PNP understood.

The Party is not seeking elections at this time because the Government has lost popularity and it is opportune to do so. There is a democratic principle recognised even by President Marcos of the Philippines at the urging of the United States, which requires a Government which has lost popular support, even during its term of office, to return to the people to seek a renewal of its mandate.

This, however, is not the position on which we rely.

We seek election now because the allowable term of a Government under our Constitution is five years from the time the last mandate was given to it by the people.

Under our democratic system, the root of the authority of a Government is the will of the people determined in free and fair elections; hence, the legitimacy of choice of the October 1980 exercise and our

valid assertion that the exercise of December 1983 did not pass that test.

The will of the people was not determined on that occasion.

The result of the exercise conferred no mandate.

The 1983 election was not held as you claim on the same system as that of 1980.

Voters lists

The election of 1980 was held on voters lists which were as current and up to date as you can get in the determination of those qualified and eligible to vote.

The voters lists of 1983 were over three years old and, therefore, omitted the names of over 150,000 young voters. This was in breach of the provisions of Section 7 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, which requires annual enumeration.

The purpose of annual enumeration is to enable those who qualify to vote to get their names on the voters lists so as to be able to fulfil their entitlement.

That section of the Act is in response to the mandate of Section 38 of the Constitution which states as follows:-

"38 (1) Any Law for the time being providing for the election of

Members of the House of Representatives shall —

a) contain provisions designed to ensure that so far as is practicable any person entitled to vote at an election of Members of the House of Representatives, shall have a reasonable opportunity of so voting; and...

Thus, we have a Law mandated by the Constitution for the purpose of achieving the people's expression of their democratic choice, clearly breached by the Government in the manner in which the election of December 1983 was held.

Nauseating

When the enumeration exercise was not undertaken in 1981 and 1982, the assurance was given by the Government to the PNP Opposition that no harm would ensue because no election was contemplated in those years. In 1983 the enumeration exercise was embarked upon, but at a stage when it was almost completed, the Government suddenly and with scant notice decided to hold a General Election on the old lists. This immoral duplicity nauseates the nation.

We beseech you that when you urge that the game be played within civilised rules, that you direct that urging to the Government. Our impeccable political conduct since 1980 in the interest of national survival

records how unnecessary it is for you to point that finger in our direction.

In this beloved nation of ours, we all have our rights and responsibilities which have to be exercised with the deference to the rights of others and the national good.

Unacceptable

We cannot accept that a Prime Minister's right to call an election when he so desires can outweigh the right of a Jamaican, constitutionally given, to be registered as an Elector when he "has achieved the prescribed age" (Section 7 of the Constitution) and the duty of the Government to ensure that he has "a reasonable opportunity of so voting". (Section 38 of the Constitution).

Neither can we accept that the decencies of Parliamentary convention with respect to undertakings and agreements can be so vulgarly breached.

We reject any contention that our protests in support of principle and the protection of democracy create "unnecessary bitterness in an already divided country."

If bitterness exists, the cause must be addressed.

It is in the Government's power to remove that cause which its action created, and to redress the injustice which embitters our people and which will not disappear until a free and fair national election is held.

/9274

CSO: 3298/217

JAMAICA

MANLEY CRITICIZES JLP FOR DELAYING LOCAL ELECTIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Nov 85 p 12

[Text]

PNP leader Michael Manley has accused the Jamaica Labour Party of employing "delaying tactics" to stall the programme of drawing new boundaries for Local Government divisions with the aim of postponing Municipal and Parish Council elections beyond December 31 this year.

In a speech in Mandeville Sunday night, November 17, Mr. Manley said the JLP members on the Electoral Advisory Committee had been changing their minds from meeting to meeting as to which boundary cuts should be done first — constituencies or Local Government divisions. He charged the JLP leader, Prime Minister Edward Scaga, personally, and the JLP in general, with treating electoral reforms as a joke and the Jamaican electorate with contempt.

During his address, the PNP leader said that two Wednesdays ago, the Director of Elections presented the Electoral Advisory Committee with proposals. The PNP members on the EAC unreservedly accepted the proposals in 53 of the 63 constituencies, proposed minor modifications in six, and fairly extensive modifications in only one. Mr. Manley continued:

"The JLP, on the other hand, who had previously agreed to the

programme of review, said they had changed their minds. They did not wish to pursue the programme of cutting Local Government seats, because, they said, under the Constitution, the Committee should be concentrating on the new Constituency boundaries, and the Local Government divisions which would be needed for the new seats.

"If the JLP insists on this method," said Mr. Manley, "it would take up to two years before either elections were held."

This, he said, was a complete breach of an agreement which had been reached between the PNP and the JLP members of the Committee, and which had led the Director of Elections to propose the new boundaries for the existing seats.

Mr. Manley said the Local Government elections were due in December. This had been accepted by the Electoral Advisory Committee, and it was disgraceful for the JLP to agree to a programme of action to ensure that those elections were held, as scheduled, and then to change their minds about it.

The PNP President warned of the danger of putting off these elections. He said Mr. Scaga must obey the law and stop the delaying tactics.

/9274

CSO: 3298/218

JAMAICA

SEAGA OUTLINES PROPOSED CHANGES IN INCOME TAX SYSTEM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Nov 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

A FLAT RATE TAX of 35 per cent on all incomes above the level of \$7,500 is to be implemented from January 1 next year under proposals for tax reforms which were tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga told the House that the great majority of income tax payers, particularly in the lower income group, would receive some benefit, whether marginal or substantial, if the reforms proposed by the Tax Reform Committee were implemented, the greatest benefit being the new lower rate of tax for all in the future.

All perquisites are to be brought into the tax base and all tax credits are to be abolished from year one.

Mr. Seaga in addition to making a statement on the proposals also tabled: the recommendations of the Tax Reform Committee which was appointed in June to study a Government Green Paper on tax reforms and make recommendations; Ministry Paper Number 35 entitled "Comprehensive Tax Reform: Phase One; and, a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act".

Earlier at a press briefing at Jamaica House the Prime Minister said that pensioners would benefit from the tax reform in that the limit of taxable income would be raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

He told the House that in order to avoid erosion of tax benefits secured under the reform measures, the contributions by employees would be reduced with effect from January 1, 1986.

The reforms would cost the Government, in terms of individual income taxation, some \$195 million. The loss would be recovered through improved tax administration and some new tax measures soon to be announced.

He said that the Government did not necessarily support all the recommendations of the Committee,

but considered that it should have the views of the public on the proposals before finding its own position.

Accordingly, the opportunity was being offered to interested persons and organizations to examine the report and submit comments and recommendations thereon to the Committee.

He said that it was imperative that such comments and recommendations be forwarded to the Committee not later than December 9, 1985, in order to facilitate implementation early in January, 1986, of recommendations which have been considered and accepted by Government.

All representations to the committee should be made in writing to: CHAIRMAN, TAX REFORM COMMITTEE, POST OFFICE BOX 9009, CSO KINGSTON.

The Prime Minister, in his statement gave a summary of the recommendations of the Committee which read as follows:

PERSONAL INCOME TAX: All perquisites be brought into the tax base from year one; all tax credits be abolished from year one; a flat rate,

tax of 35 cents in the dollar be imposed on all income above the level of \$7,500; and, the exemption level be gradually raised to at least \$10,000 and the flat rate lowered to at least 30 cents in the dollar as the revenue situation improves.

PROPERTY TAX: The Tax base be shifted to 1984 values with provision for regular revaluation; a phased rate schedule should be applied to the 1984 values to avoid tax shock with a return to rates equivalent to current rates in the higher land value classes by year three; all properties in the land value classes of \$4,000 and below should be taxed at a flat rate of \$10 per annum in year one and thereafter at a flat rate of \$20.

In terms of administration of the reform measures, the committee recommended among other things that all taxpayers should have a unique taxpayer identification number; that all taxpayers whose incomes exceeded \$7,500 should be required to file an income tax return; a major programme to identify and assess self-employed taxpayers who presently evade income tax; improvements in remuneration of qualified tax personnel; a rigorous enforcement programme; improvements in the administration of the customs department and the property tax collectorates; and, that assessment and collection of NIS, NHT, HEART, Education Tax and Widows and Orphans Fund should be unified under a single administrative bureau.

The report also dealt with Corporate Taxation and in the absence of a final report and costings from the Tax Reform Project Team, said that it supported the abolition of the present company profits tax and the additional company profits tax and their replacement by an income tax applicable to all companies at an equal rate to the rate applicable to individuals.

On Indirect Taxation, it supported in principle that the present Excise Duties, Retail Sales Tax and most of the Consumption Duties should be

replaced by a single value-added tax to be designated the General Consumption Tax (GCT).

It was recommended that the measures dealing with individual income tax and consequent adjustments become effective from January 1, 1986; that property taxation-rate adjustments become effective from April 1, 1986; and, that improvements in income tax administration — expansion of the tax base be carried out immediately.

In relation to individual income taxation, one of the main objectives would be the reduction of the present high rates which discouraged private initiative, investment and work effort and as a consequence slowed the rate of economic growth. The objective was to reduce the rate of personal income tax to a low level while ensuring that only bona fide business expenses incurred by an employee would be acceptable as allowances.

In relation to property taxation, it was proposed that the unimproved value system should remain the basis of taxation and that tax rates should be adjusted to take account of changes in the value of the land since the last revaluation was in 1974.

He said that the improvements in the system of corporate income taxation would be effective on January 1, 1987.

He said that in terms of the GCT which would create a uniform rate, reliefs by way of zero rating or exemption would apply in respect of basic necessities widely used by the lower income groups, postage stamps and gold bullion not regarded as suitable for taxation as well as baggage of travellers.

In the first phase of the reform, benefits would flow to those taxpayers who had been discriminated against in the past: individuals in the public and private sectors who received little such perquisites as generous allowances. But it would not benefit individuals who had been receiving larger than average perquisites and those who had been illegally evading tax.

JAMAICA

OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES IN SPOTLIGHT--PRICES, WAGES

Call for Price Cuts

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Nov 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

CALLS FOR A ROLLBACK OF PRICES on consumer goods have been made by the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Parnell Charles and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Karl Samuda.

Both Ministers made their calls at a joint JLP Conference of Eastern St. Andrew and South East St. Andrew at Mountain View Primary School yesterday.

Mr. Charles said there were merchants who constantly rubbed our prices and put on a new mark-up when the value of the dollar fell. However, he said that he wondered what was happening to the rubber stamp when the dollar was gaining strength.

The Minister said there was a corresponding need for prices to be rolled back in keeping with the value of the dollar, and added that the people would have to start demanding this roll back in prices.

Mr. Samuda, for his part, said that the only thing that was bothering him was the price situation. He recalled that there had been a clash between himself and the bakers and milk processors, and warned that the public would see more of these clashes in the ensuing weeks if there was any attempt to hike prices in the face of the strengthening of the Jamaican dollar.

"As long as I have the job there will be clashes between them and me," Mr. Samuda said.

He said that in the case of the price of commodities which were found to have been raised over the required amount, the retailer involved would have his supplies from the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company discontinued.

"Unless we are satisfied that those prices are reasonable we're going to demand that they show us the record," he declared, adding that the Government was examining legislations to make it more punitive for those failing to show their records. The fines they are required to pay will be greater, he told the constituents.

Dealing with electoral matters, Mr. Samuda said the cutting of Constituency boundaries was not an exercise which could be done overnight.

"We of the JLP view these changes as having great significance in the continued development of democracy and we can't tell you

when this exercise will be completed," he said.

Mr. Samuda, who is one of the JLP's representatives on the Electoral Advisory Committee, said: "We will be looking at this (exercise) through a microscope to see that they conform with the requirements of the Constitution."

Also speaking on the issue of elections, Mr. Parnell Charles, a Deputy Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, said now was not the time for election; instead it was the time for production.

However if those calling for elections now insisted, Labourites would have to support the Government and not stand by and watch anybody bring down the administration. "We are not going to allow anybody to destroy this country and this Government," he added.

Also speaking at the conference were Members of Parliament for East St. Andrew, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett and the Hon. Winston Spaulding for South East St. Andrew. They both reviewed the projects and programmes implemented in their respective constituencies over the last five years.

Governor General's Appeal

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

Governor General, Sir Florizel Glasspole has called on businessmen to roll back prices in light of the improved value of the Jamaican dollar. In making this appeal, the Governor General has joined a number of organizations, government ministers and private individuals who have been calling for a reduction in prices, especially in basic food items, since

the J\$ moved up to \$5.50 against the US\$ from a low of \$6.40.

The Governor General made this appeal in his address to the 36th. Annual Island Conference of the Jamaica Legion of the British Commonwealth of Ex-Services (BCEL). The annual conference and luncheon took place Saturday at the Legion's registered office, Curphy Place.

Sir Florizel went on to say that although there has been an improvement in the J\$, the economic situation was 'still dim' and that 1986 would be no better than 1985. He therefore appealed to everyone to face up to this reality and do what must be done to alleviate the hardships.

New Minimum Wage

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Nov 85 p 22

[Text]

A new minimum wage for all categories of workers will be put in place in early 1986, according to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer.

Mr. Shearer said that in January the National Minimum Wage which was now at \$60 weekly would be increased as well as the rates paid to domestic helpers.

He added that the Government's weekly rate would be also increased to \$169 up from \$149 in April next year. This increase would cost the Government \$132 million.

The Deputy Prime Minister who was addressing the the Public Session of the Jamaica Labour Party's 42nd annual conference at the National Arena on Sunday said that the Government's minimum wage had moved from \$68 per week in 1980 to the present figure of \$149 per week.

In addressing a wide-range of issues relating

to the initiatives of the Government, Mr. Shearer said that a minimum was established for pensioners of \$130 per month which compared to under \$60 under the Government of the People's National Party.

In terms of the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act (LRIDA), Mr. Shearer noted Saturday and Sunday was being excluded from vacation of Government workers so that vacation leave would be considered on the basis of work days.

The Act was also being examined to find out ways of establishing more benefits for workers, he said.

Turning to the economy, the Deputy Prime Minister outlined steps that the Government was taking to build the economy in such sectors as tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.

He said, however, that the country's big-

gest setback was the shortfall in bauxite and alumina earnings totalling U.S.\$500 million, a thing the Prime Minister had already explained.

"Despite the problem we have not blamed imperialism, we have not blamed white people. We have carried out our structural adjustment," he said, adding that other countries such as Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela had devalued their currency more in percentage terms than Jamaica.

Mr. Shearer appealed to the large gathering that they should not blame the Prime Minister alone for the economic decisions and strategies that the country had embarked on; the Cabinet and the House of Representatives should additionally be blamed for the policies because they had all agreed on them.

Touching on the country's foreign policy,

he said that the Government had pursued this with balance. It was a policy which recognised Jamaica's obligations as members of the international community; in regional and bi-lateral agreements and in the promotion and protection of the national interest.

Jamaica was up front in the struggle against apartheid, support of the Contadora Group and calls for disarmament of the superpowers while applauding the Geneva meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev.

Mr. Shearer, however said that Jamaica joined in the demand for dismantling and verification of nuclear weapons as he expressed the hope that dialogue would continue between the superpowers.

He said that the Government was committed to the objectives of the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

Teacher Wage Dispute

FL070009 Bridgetown CANA in English 2025 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Kingston, 6 Dec (CANA)--The Jamaica Government has raised by 2.5 percent its salary offer to the lowest rung of state-paid teachers here, but is sticking firmly to its 10 percent to other categories in what some official sources say is a final offer.

The Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA), which represents the bulk of the island's 20,000 teachers, has described the offer to teacher-college-trained and pre-trained teachers as marginal and that it was extremely distressed that other categories such as teachers with university degrees and principals were not included in the proposal.

The JTA said it would be consulting its members over next week on the negotiations.

Teachers were among the most militant in rejecting the government's 10 percent offer for this year to most public sector employees and was involved in a series of short work stoppages and a general strike in June. The teachers had asked for an 30 percent pay hike.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said recently that proposed tax reforms which would come into force in January would go a long way to addressing the concern of teachers.

But the JTA said it had told minister responsible for the public service, Errol Anderson, that there was really very little in the tax proposals for them.

The association said it was also disappointed that government was not acting on its proposal to use the education tax, levied at one percent of salaries, to finance increases to teachers.

The JTA had extended until yesterday an earlier deadline for acceptance of what it called a reasonable offer from the government.

The association has not said what precisely would be its next move, but officials have spoken of a contingency plan which might be put into effect.

/9274

CSO: 3298/218

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT-FORMED TASK FORCE ON EXPORTS TO REPORT REGULARLY

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 24 Nov 85 p 24

[Text]

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglass Vaz, has appointed a Task Force on Exports which will meet monthly to review developments in the export sector and to identify companies with export potential.

The Task Force comprises representatives from the public and private sectors, including the Presidents of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, the Jamaica Exporters Association, and the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica.

At the first meeting of the Task Force on Tuesday of this week, the Minister said that the Government would in the future be concentrating on firm-by-firm surveys rather than looking at sectors in general. He read statistics detailing the decline in certain sectors and said that the Task Force would be investigating why the

declines took place and how they could be remedied.

If a sector had shown declines in the first quarter, for example, the Task Force would examine why this was so and seek corrective measures, rather than letting the sector continue the downward slide. He said there were innovative and enterprising people in the industry and the Government was very eager to "hold their hands" and help them achieve their goals.

The Minister admitted that not everything was in place for the private sector, but he said that in the meantime "we could not just roll over and play dead. We have to make the best use of our present circumstances". He said the Government-commissioned Comparative Advantage Study would soon be completed and that the findings would first be discussed with the private sector before any action was taken.

The Minister stressed that now was the time for action and that there were many opportunities in the export field.

The meeting discussed certain obstacles to export, such as the 16% Stamp Duty, the 100% duty on capital goods, and the inadequacy of direct incentives. PSOJ President Sam Mahfood and JEA President Claude Clarke felt that very little would be achieved without these issues being addressed.

The Task Force on Exports comprises representatives from the Bank of Jamaica, the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and key private sector organisations and companies.

The Task Force also has representatives with specialist knowledge in their sectors, such as Mr. Fabian Lopez, Mr. Geoffrey Messado, Mr. David Chin, Mr. Barclay Ewart and Mr. Lloyd Samuels.

/9274

CSO: 3298/219

JAMAICA

CANE LOSSES CITED; NEW USES FOR LAND PROPOSED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Nov 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by H. G. Helps]

[Excerpts]

Over \$5 million worth of cane was not reaped this year as a result of the closure of the Gray's Inn Sugar Factory near Annotto Bay, which ceased operations in September last year.

In addition over \$3.5 million worth of cane was either un-reaped, left in the factory yard or left in haulage carts at the end of the final crop in 1984.

Farmers whose cane was left un-reaped, have still not received full compensation from the Sugar Industry Authority.

At Agualta Vale farms, formerly the largest private supplier of cane to Gray's Inn, the plan is to reap the remaining acres of cane next year and thereafter cease cultivation. The cane lands are to be used to produce bananas and the Jamaica Banana Producers Association (JPBA), of which Agualta Vale is a subsidiary,

has plans to lease 1,500 acres of Gray's Inn cane lands for banana cultivation.

Mr. Paul Whylic, general manager of Agualta Vale explains, "The JBPA and the Caribbean Development Corporation are both working towards a joint venture 2,000 acre, \$70 million banana project. 1,000 acres will be provided by Agualta Vale while the other 1,000 acres should come from former Gray's Inn cane lands."

Preparations are being headed by a group of Hondurans (Spanish) who are expected to provide expertise. Mr. Whylic said water is posing a problem, but wells are being dug in order to ease these hardships.

It was revealed that the project upon implementation would employ over 1,000 people on a full-time basis. Foreign exchange inflows are expected to be substantial. Mr. Whylic also said that the Grand Nain variety, which is highly productive and resistant to wind damage, would be planted.

Cost per acre would be in the region of \$15,000 - \$20,000.

/9274

CSO: 3298/219

JAMAICA

PNP CHAIRMAN PATTERSON DISCUSSES SITUATION OF PRESS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 85 p 3

[Text]

QUESTIONS AS TO WHY in the 1980s the local press had become so silent, were raised by People's National Party Chairman P.J. Patterson, as he addressed a Veterans' Luncheon of the Press Association, in the Hospitality Suite of J. Wray and Nephew. The Luncheon which is a feature of the celebration of National Journalism Week, took place Wednesday.

Guest speaker of the occasion, Mr. Patterson recalled that in the 1970s the local press was strident. He then asked: "Why has it become so silent in the 1980s? Is it fear or is it guilty of double standards?"

Commenting on press reaction to the PNP's call for elections, Mr. Patterson said:

"Sections of the press ask the Opposition to 'cool it' in their campaign for national elections now. They suggest it is the fault of the PNP why there is only one party in the current farce at Duke Street. They praise the robber for a sleight of hand and clobber the victim which complains at the fraud.

"You will recall that the JLP refused to participate in bye-elections during 1977-78 until electoral reform was complete," said the guest speaker who then declared: "I invite you to search your own consciences and say what position the Press would have taken if Prime Minister Manley had seized the occasion then to stage a political coup by calling general elections during that time."

He likened the Press to a looking-glass in which "we see ourselves and the wide world outside. The policies and goals you reflect are directly related to the kind of society which exists and which it is sought to create," he said.

He added: "At a time when the country faces agonizing choices, when there are searches for new alternatives, when the society begins to question its own capacity to survive, it is encouraging that so much attention is now being focussed on media policy."

Defining what he saw as the role of the media in a developing country like Jamaica, Mr. Patterson said the media "must seek to educate, enlighten, inform, inspire and entertain. It is an important tool of national development."

From the earliest times, he said, the unquestioned power of the press was recognized because of its profound impact on the shaping of public attitudes and the road each nation pursued. Quoting from the preamble in UNESCO's constitution which states — "since wars are made in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of the peace must be constructed" — Mr. Patterson said, "The press, more than any other single element, determines what takes place in the minds of men. Freedom cannot exist in the minds of men in the absence of a free press." He then emphasized:

"The rationale of freedom for the press does not rest in special privileges or licences for journalists. Rather, it exists and is to be exercised for the

welfare and benefit of the society as a whole. It must be zealously protected, not only by journalists, but, indeed, by the society as a whole."

Stating that freedom of information must go "hand in hand", the PNP Chairman said that while in feudal or colonial societies, any information was regarded as dangerous, modern nations had enshrined the right to know. But, he went on, "In Jamaica, we only learn about the conduct of public affairs from that which the Government chooses to tell from time to time." Routine information was classified as 'secret'; officials buried decisions which affected the country's everyday life 'in a cloud of faceless bureaucracy'; important statistics were reserved from all but those in a position to manipulate and distort them to suit whatever political proposition it was sought to establish; "our arrangements and performance with the IMF are learnt from statements in Austria, Korea, Washington — from everywhere else besides Kingston, Jamaica; our properties abroad are sold without our being informed to whom, for what amounts and precisely for what purpose; the handling of our National

Retained Accounts is shrouded in such secrecy that it gives rise to rumours and suspicion of corruption and destroys confidence in public probity", said the guest speaker. Defining what he saw as the role of the press in this state of affairs, Mr. Patterson said:

"If all this is to be corrected, our national press needs new impetus and fresh vitality. It must become inquisitive, critical and assertive. It must rely less on Ministerial statements and bland press releases. It must explore each ray that illumines no matter where it may lead. The search for truth will always require courage."

Mr. Patterson urged the veterans to impart their accumulated experiences to the younger members of the profession.

Chairman of the occasion was Mr. Terry Smith of RJR.

Special tribute was paid to the late H.P. Jacobs, who died earlier this year.

Mr. Tony Burrowes of J. Wray and Nephew, who hosted the luncheon, extended greetings, and a vote of thanks was moved by PAJ President, Mr. Gladstone Wilson.

/9274

CSO: 3298/219

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

MEDIA OBJECTIVITY LAW--The Jamaican Government has proposed legislation to set up an independent commission to protect the objectivity of broadcast media in the country. Prime Minister Edward Seaga tabled a bill earlier this week in Parliament. It calls for the appointment of independent commissioners to act as ombudsmen on the broadcast media. They would field and investigate charges of political bias. Under the measure, the country's governor general is to appoint the commissioners. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Dec 85 FL] /9274

PARISH PROTEST--St Ann's Bay, St Ann, 27 Nov 85--Scores of Parish Council workers disrupted a Council meeting today and occupied the St Ann Parish Council Chamber after 192 of them were served with dismissal notices. The 192 workers of the St Ann Parish Council will definitely have their employment terminated at the end of this month. The workers who are employed to the Public Cleansing Department and Market have received letters from the Secretary of the St Ann Parish Council notifying them that their posts will be abolished with effect from 30 November. The serving of these letters of notice resulted in protest action by the workers who disrupted a Council meeting and occupied the Chambers for approximately three and a half hours today. The police were also summoned to the scene. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 85 p 1] /9274

YOUTH PROGRAM--Solidarity, the new Government programme to provide self-employment and training for approximately 10,000 young people annually, was launched by Prime Minister Edward Seaga before a huge crowd at the National Arena yesterday evening. Mr Seaga said that the programme would finance 3,000 projects involving 10,000 young people in 1986. Already 509 of those projects have been selected from applications made. Persons involved with 15 of the projects costing approximately \$200,000 were presented with copies of their loan agreements at the function. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 85 pp 1, 3] /9274

ALL-OUT ALUMINA PRODUCTION--Kingston, 10 Dec (CANAL)--The 800,000-tonne Alcoa-owned alumina refinery, which the Jamaica Government now controls, will next year operate at near capacity for the first time, according to Mining Minister Hugh Hart. Alcoa earlier this year decided to shut down the plant, citing soft markets for the product given the slump in demand for aluminium. But the Jamaica Government, under a company called Clarendon Alumina Production (CAP),

took over the operations, maintaining Alcoa as the managers. CAP meets all production costs, but Alcoa still owns the facilities. Hart told the Senate here that he had, in a shock to Alcoa, ordered the plant's two digester lines started up for the plant to be operated at full capacity--something the American company had never done. We expect, therefore, to be producing and marketing between 600,000 and 700,000 tonnes of alumina during 1986, Hart declared. The government, which is in charge of marketing, has held the identity of its customers a secret. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1746 GMT 10 Dec 85 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/220

PERU

ENERGY MINISTER ON RENEGOTIATION OF OIL CONTRACTS

Lima CARETAS in Spanish 30 Sep 85 pp 29-32

[Interview with Wilfredo Huaita Nunez, minister of energy and mines; date and place not specified]

[Text] Wilfredo Huaita Nunez, a native of Ayacucho, is 62 years old, married, with three children who are professionals and two grandchildren. He is a member of APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and a Guadalupan (for his school and the Virgin). He was touted for the ministry since he presided over the mining commission of CONAPLAN [National Commission on the Plan of Government]. He was its permanent vice president, first with Luis Rodriguez Vildosola and then with Luis Alva Castro. He recalls with pride that his father was imprisoned in 1931 for being a member of APRA and that he was a member of the Guadalupe underground cell during his 5 years in secondary school and then on the university board of the old Engineering School from which he graduated in 1948. He has a new passion now: negotiating new contracts with three established oil enterprises, writing a new oil law that permits others to come here, solving the problems of the mines during this time of crisis and not disappointing popular expectations.

[Question] Didn't you put the cart before the horse by rescinding the contracts before you repealed the law and established a new legal framework?

[Answer] The law doesn't need to be repealed in order to rescind the contracts. The grounds are abuse of the right. Therefore, we say that the stated facts show an abuse of the right which hurts the interests of the state. Large amounts of money are involved. We invoked Article 21 of the Constitution and we rescinded them. We are not encroaching upon the jurisdiction of other branches of the state. In Article 4, we authorized the attorney general of the republic responsible for the affairs of the Ministry of Energy and Mines to mediate in order to establish responsibilities.

[Question] Then the process isn't over yet?

[Answer] At best, the Judicial Branch will say that we were wrong, that there is no crime, that everything is according to law and abuse of the right cannot be proven. That is within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Branch but our obligation in the Executive Branch is to assume the responsibility and carry out this process of rescission within 90 days, based on Article 2.

[Question] What do the companies you have to negotiate with say?

[Answer] Since there are no contractors for 90 days, there are three firms operating in the oil fields. According to law, the oil belongs to the state--PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency], in this case. It stores the oil in its warehouses and must pay for the work done--expenses for wages and supplies, basically. The next DS [Supreme Decree] concerned operations for these 90 days and set the prices. Occidental and Oxy-Bridas are operating normally; they agreed. At this time, Belco is the only enterprise that extracts oil and, at the same time, is developing. The others are not. We are negotiating. They give me an amount and my technicians evaluate it. They have not yet come to an agreement.

[Question] Then those headlines saying "Belco in Default" were wrong?

[Answer] Those are journalistic reports from people who do not bother to consult PETROPERU or the minister.

[Question] There was one story that some Belco shipments were stopped by the Navy and forced to return to Zocalo....

[Answer] I don't know the story. I am aware that one ship--empty, of course--left the country for repairs. This caught my eye because we have repair shops here. There was some incident with the Harbor Master's Office. We are concerned about illegal shipments leaving because they would be taking our production. One loaded ship did leave--4 days after the expropriation, I think--because it already had all its papers. There are usually delays in putting them through....

[Question] Excuse me, but you said expropriation, 4 days after the expropriation?

[Answer] If I said expropriation, I was wrong. After the rescission. If I made a mistake, please excuse me....

[Question] To finish with Belco. It is assumed that all the infrastructure that this enterprise has brought in must remain in order to keep the Zocalo operative....

[Answer] Look, when the contract is rescinded, everything belongs to the state: platforms, equipment, everything. Not even a screw is going to leave. New contracts might not be reached during the discussions....Earlier you mentioned the renegotiation of contracts. There is no such thing. New contracts will be discussed; that is different from renegotiating....

[Question] If Law 23231--still in effect--includes tax repayment for exploration and/or exploitation, why does the decree to rescind the contracts cite abuse of the law?

[Answer] The law unquestionably protects the two activities. However, Article 6 of the regulation states: "The General Directorate of Hydrocarbons must take the following into account when approving investment or reinvestment programs using tax credits: a) The objective of the programmed investments must be to increase the exploitable oil reserves and/or develop them rationally based on technical criteria that permit economically feasible recovery of the deposits....

[Question] In other words, preservation of the reserves....

[Answer] Increase the reserves! Rational exploitation means taking one out and replacing it with two. However, the businessmen said: "Very well, I have this great opportunity. As an established business, I have my known reserves. Why lose time exploring for reserves? I extract them and get the tax credit which I can use to pay my other taxes."

[Question] If there were no tax repayment, it would have been impossible to preserve the level of reserves....

[Answer] That is what they say, but the figures show otherwise. Our general director of hydrocarbons at that time simply approved all the programs that were presented to him. I made a very quick estimate and 90 percent of these funds had been allocated to exploitation, to quickly extract oil in quantity. A minimal percentage was used to make one or two exploratory holes. These are the statistics: what they have taken out and what they have replaced. Reserves have gone down from some 800 million barrels to 600 million--in other words, a loss of 200 million. This is what, in my opinion, is called abuse of a right.

[Question] Is it a swindle?

[Answer] I am not a specialist in criminal law. However, I do know the following. I am given the right to take an exemption for exploration or exploitation. Then I overstep the bounds and distort the meaning of the law.

[Question] Decree 23231 and its regulation establish that a Directorate of Hydrocarbons authorize the orientation of the repayment each fiscal year.

[Answer] Right, but what if there is a weak director? He simply approves everything....

[Question] An amount corresponding to the misdirected exemptions is now being demanded from the companies....

[Answer] After determining the amount, we will decide how much should have gone to exploration and how much to exploitation. This is not classified. We are saying: These \$300 million should have been invested in exploration and were not. If they want to negotiate new contracts, the companies must agree

that these \$300 million are going to be invested in exploration. If they agree, we continue the discussions. If they do not agree, we are done and PETROPERU will be responsible for producing oil for the country's needs. That will happen on day 91.

[Question] On day 91 what the enterprises owe (those \$300 million) and what their installations in the country are worth--let us say, \$200 million or \$400 million--will be established. What happens to the difference?

[Answer] The \$200 million or \$400 million they are worth must remain here because the contract is rescinded. That does not compensate for the other \$300 million. The judge will decide what we are going to do, whether they owe, whether they abused the right, whether the abuse of the right is a crime, whether it is quantifiable and whether it is necessary to pay the consequences or whether there should be a moral sanction. That is for the Judicial Branch to decide. I also don't know how it will be collected.

[Question] It is assumed that Parliament would have to debate and pass the new law during these 90 days.

[Answer] In the worst of cases, the new law will not be passed because Parliament is sometimes slow. I have an existing oil law. After 23231 is repealed, 22774 and 22775 take effect. I put the general norms in the new contract and I can set the conditions.

[Question] Do you agree that, despite the fact that you have the majority in both houses, Parliament does not function?

[Answer] If the bill that we sent at the beginning of August to repeal Law 23231 had passed, our position might have been different. However, things took too long and we could not just wait. We are executives. We have to defend national interests.

[Question] There is much more drilling in Colombia and Ecuador now than in Peru. Will the new law encourage foreign investment?

[Answer] Based on Haya de la Torre's philosophy and what President Alan Garcia said at ESAN [School of Business Administration], we are correct in saying that we cannot end underdevelopment without capital from the developed countries. Oil is an activity that requires foreign capital and we urgently need the oil for our development. We have to be pragmatic and provide political security. We are going to pass realistic legislation that gives guarantees so that foreign capital will come and be secure. First we are going to guarantee the recovery of all its investments until accelerated exploitation starts. This could take 4 or 5 years. This is like amortizing everything that has been invested at 20 or 25 percent per year. It now takes 27 or 30 years under the system of recovery of investment by unit of production--that is, by each barrel of oil. This is very slow and does not arouse much interest. Now we offer this other possibility. Second, after guaranteeing it recovery of its investment, we assure it of adequate profitability. The domestic rate of return is a negotiable point. The word flexibility is very important in the contracts: whether it is on the coast or

in the jungle, whether there is more or less risk, whether the work is done in other geological ages, whether it goes deeper, etc. If we add confidence in this democracy and political stability to these basic proposals for the recovery of investment and a domestic rate of return that yields a profit, this will explain why there are so many companies that want to come.

[Question] Which ones want to come?

[Answer] One is Chevron, the second most important firm after Exxon. We have contacted British Oil and British Petroleum, two powerful firms, through the British ambassador. Shell came and told us that it wants to expand its activities. However, this is not permitted by law because it has two contracts, the maximum under Law 22774. I have told it that we are changing that maximum in the bill that we are going to send to Parliament. It can sign three, four or five contracts. We give that responsibility to the Council of Ministers since, naturally, we cannot hand over half of Peru. In addition to these firms, PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] is very interested. We want to consolidate our trade relations with Brazil based on the principle of compensated trade.

[Question] Have talks already been held?

[Answer] PETROBRAS has talked very positively to us about oil. We have also talked about investments in gold mines in San Antonio de Poto. We should finalize something next week when a mission arrives. PETROBRAS and Brazilian banking are going to actively participate in our economy.

[Question] Then the biggest pitfall to confidence would be discussion about the approximately \$300 million in repayment that was abused?

[Answer] That is the *raison d'etre* for the decree; that is its essence. If they tell us that they do not accept it in principle, too bad. There is nothing to talk about.

[Question] But wouldn't that be dangerous for our international image? In the 1970's, there was the problem of the IPC [International Petroleum Company]. Now it is Oxy, Belco and the Oxy-Bridas consortium....

[Answer] I don't think that situation will occur for a very simple reason: they have shown their desire to remain in the country. Occidental has revealed that any price we pay it will be on account. It has done great work here which it does not want to leave and it also has great plans. There is the concession in the jungle that has large reserves of heavy oil. This is a technological challenge that it wants to exploit. It is interested in other areas that it has unquestionably studied and wants to work. I am very optimistic about this aspect. I don't want any scandal because oil causes fires that no one can put out.

[Question] When strengthening PETROPERU is mentioned, isn't this so it can replace the foreign enterprises and take on the exploration and exploitation itself?

[Answer] We want to strengthen PETROPERU so that it is capable of fulfilling its own objectives which does not mean working all the oil in Peru. That would be too ambitious. That is why we are inviting all the enterprises in the world to come share the risk with us. If only these 10 firms that I talked with would settle in the country. That would mean job opportunities for the unemployed, technological development and the creation of wealth. Oil would become a powerful weapon in our economy.

[Question] To turn to other things, what will your ministry do about those mines in crisis whose workers wander around Lima?

[Answer] These mines that we have called problem mines deserve special treatment from the new administration. A multisectorial commission has been created, headed by the deputy minister of mines, Dr Roger Arevalo. It is seeking an integral solution. Working full-time, it has met with all the businessmen or the heads of the mining concessions and the union representatives. It has talked with all the factors that intervene in this problem like the Banco Minero of Peru and MINPECO [Peruvian State Mineral Marketing Company]. Each mine is definitely a special case. Minas Canarias which is in Ayacucho is polymetallic and has large reserves. There the only problem is operation. The Senderists blew up the concentrating plant. They do not allow them to even bring out the reconcentrated minerals that are already mined. These could be used to pay the debt to MINPECO, for example. All these factors are going to be studied in depth and a solution will be found. The case of Rio Pallanga is different. It has large debts but it has enough capital assets to pay the debts and still operate even though its economic yield might not make up for the economic effort. They want to go from 1,000 to 3,000 tons per day but they have not even been able to install all that machinery that was purchased because of the crisis. I would like to tell the union members to have some patience and confidence in the new regime which will find the solution.

7717

CSO: 3348/92

PERU

LIMA MAYOR DISCUSSES 'REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE'

PY091724 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 1 Dec 85 p 2

[Text] United Left [IU] Party President Alfonso Barrantes Lingan has stated that he does not reject the use of "revolutionary violence" as a method of achieving national liberation. He said that this method was used by the libertarians Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar to break colonial ties with Spain.

During a ceremony to commemorate his 58th birthday, which was organized by a select group of friends from different national sectors and held at the "Teachers House," the Lima mayor added that "revolutionary violence is a method used throughout history."

But he added that is fruitful only when it is done with the will of the people "and not when this will is not respected, when the banner is taken up and the people are called to participate in an armed struggle against their will." Barrantes also repudiated terrorist actions.

Barrantes was congratulated by prominent national politicians such as Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro; Luis Abraham Cavallerino, the chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command; Alfonso Grados Bertorini; Javier Arias Stella; and legislators such as Fernando Olibera, Gustavo Espinoza, Javier Diez Canseco, Benjamin Madueno, Enrique Bernales, and Armando Villanueva del Campo.

The IU leader noted that many of his 58 years have been dedicated to the social and political struggle "in which displeasures are forgotten and pleasant things are an incentive to continue the struggle. But in the end all of them are experiences."

After noting that he has never been an "extremist," he said that he is a fighter who has assimilated the ideas of Jose Carlos Mariategui who struggles to achieve the unity of the poor from both the city and the country." [quotation marks as published]

/6091
CSO: 3348/275

PERU

NAVY MANUFACTURES MACHINEGUNS, RIFLE GRENADES

PY091425 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 9 Dec 85

[From "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] Peru is no longer behind in the manufacture of arms. Recently the news spread through the world that the Peruvian Navy had succeeded in manufacturing a submachinegun with impressive firepower. Our reporter (Albino Herrera) has visited the Navy Weapons Manufacturing Center, and this is his report:

[Begin Herrera recording] Peru, like many other Latin American countries, is now trying to enter the field of weapons production. A small factory, set up in the large Lima workshops, produces machineguns, pistols, and revolvers, whose quality has been successfully tested by our Armed Forces and Police. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo [surname indistinct] the Peruvian Navy Arms Factory produces excellent submachineguns [words indistinct].

Another weapon, recently developed by the Navy, is a high-powered grenade which can be launched with a rifle using ordinary bullets with no need to modify anything. Normally, a special kind of bullet is needed to launch these grenades. With the new grenade, this is no longer necessary. The military forces of Germany, Israel, and now Peru are the only ones in the world using this device.

The Research and Development Department of the Peruvian Navy and the Peruvian workers have now acquired the necessary technology and know-how to manufacture this grenade, which we used to import, for our Navy and Armed Forces. The department is advancing rapidly along the road of arms manufacture, creating its own designs and assembling some foreign weapons. These are some examples: antiriot shotguns, signal pistols, Colt revolvers, Browning pistols, long-barrel submachineguns, and parts for Navy practice grenades. All these are the most recent samples of this new and promising activity, which has a future in Peru. [end recording]

/6091

CSO: 3348/275

PERU

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTMENTS--Ministry of Fisheries: general manager of CERPER [Public Enterprise for Fishing Certificates], Magda Maravi Navarro (acting); and secretary of the board of CERPER, Isaac Chang Diaz. INADE: assistant director of the Autonomous Authority for the Olmos Special Project, Jose Felix Paz Perez; and assistant director of the Autonomous Authority for the Chira-Piura Special Project, Alberto Joo Chang. Ministry of Industry: honorary advisers to the deputy minister of tourism--Alberto Kitasono Rocca, Antonio Biondi Bernales, Jorge Chavez Bambaren, Guillermina Flores Vincas, Rolando Sanchez Verdeguer and Orestes Rodriguez Campos. Ministry of Public Health: president of the Huancaayo Public Welfare Association, Oswaldo Vasquez Pazos; president of the Chiclayo Public Welfare Association, Lila Rivadeneyra Garcia; and president of the Cajamarca Public Welfare Association, Luis Adolfo Amorin Bueno. Ministry of Economy: chairman of the board of Inversiones Inmobiliarias El Dorado S.A., Guillermo de la Flor A.; and chairman of the board of the Compania de Negociaciones Mobiliarias e Inmobiliarias S.A., Efrain Espinel Cruzado. Ministry of Transportation: president of the Administration Council of the National Commission for Supervision of Land Transportation, Raul Gonzales Herrera. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Oct 85 p A-5] 7717

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM REORGANIZED--Jose Barsallo, president of the IPSS [Peruvian Institute of Social Security], announced yesterday that the cabinet has approved five supreme decrees that contain measures to achieve "reorganization, less bureaucratization, decentralization, technical improvements and the best use of resources" in the IPSS. He announced this after a report to the Council of Ministers which met for 4 hours beginning at 10:30 am. He emphasized: "The provisions will make the modification of the new social security structure concrete and focus its policies on benefitting the insured." He cited some of the basic actions like progressive and conscious rationalization of human resources as public servants retire, voluntarily or by mandate. He said that only the welfare and technical personnel will be reinstated. About 2,500 public servants will have to retire this year. He said that procedures will be shortened and unnecessary ones eliminated in order to decrease bureaucratization. The mediation levels between the board and the administrative offices will also be eliminated. Barsallo assured that all those actions will be carried out within the law without any abuses. As to other aspects, he repeated that the reserves of the IPSS had gone down about \$350 million, "not counting the embezzlement detected which is very significant. Only the General Comptroller's Office of the

Republic can discuss that." Concerning the state's debt to social security, he said that it is catching up on its payments although the total balance is still some 337 billion sols. With respect to the doctors whose contracts have expired, he said: "No doctors have been dismissed. However, they must compete for the positions." [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Oct 85 p A-4] 7717

INTERIOR, DEFENSE BUDGETS DENOUNCED--The 1986 budget for current expenses for the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense alone has tripled compared to the past fiscal year, reaching 12 billion Intis. This violates the principles of austerity and savings announced by the current government. According to deputy Jacinto Irala, a member of the Bicameral Budget Committee, the projected expenses for the coming year are exorbitant and scandalous, especially since they only cover current expenses--that is, payment of wages, etc. The direct defense of the nation like the purchase of armaments comes under debts. He denounced the fact that the budget allocated to the Ministry of Interior is more than 4 billion Intis--that is, twice what has been allocated for the Ministry of the Navy or the Ministry of Aeronautics. Their budgets barely reach 2,246,000,000 and 2,199,000,000 Intis, respectively. According to the 1986 budget bill under discussion in that committee, the Ministry of War, Ministry of the Navy and Ministry of Aeronautics have projected expenses of 8,227,000,000 Intis, an extraordinary amount. That equals 24.3 percent of the 1986 national budget. Irala showed his concern about the transfer of \$30 million to \$40 million from the financial sphere to the production sector. There is the potential danger that this could be remitted to the armed forces instead of being used for its original objective. [Text] [Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 10 Oct 85 p 8] 7717

WORKERS DEMAND JOB SECURITY--Thousands of Peruvian workers marked through downtown Lima avenues to demand the approval of a job security bill and to criticize the Alan Garcia government's current policy toward the labor sector. Valentin Pancho, secretary general of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru--the country's largest labor federation, said that the working class demands job stability, higher salaries, and respect for their dignity as human beings. He added that the current government's labor policy is nothing new and that it is similar to that of former administrations. It was also reported that in Loreto department the policy beat seven mayors of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party who participated in a demonstration to demand economic assistance for their municipalities. The demand was repressed with special harshness and at least 70 people were detained. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 85 PA] /9274

OFFICIAL VISITS TO ARRANGE SUMMIT--President Eric Arturo Delvalle has received Peruvian Justice Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada in a private audience. Gonzalez Posada heads a special mission appointed by Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez to make the initial official contacts to begin preparations for a summit of Latin American heads of state. At the request of the Peruvian president, this important meeting of Latin American heads of state would be held in our country. A common strategy to address the hemisphere's problems, especially the foreign debt, would be discussed at this meeting. The mission is composed of Jose Gabriel Castillo, private secretary of Minister

Gonzalez Posada; Victor Tirado, press secretary of the Justice Ministry; Cesar Campos, general director of communications; and Enrique Vasquez Laforge, secretary general. Gonzalez Posada arrived in Panama after participating in a meeting of justice ministers of Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries and the Philippines in Costa Rica. While in Panama, Gonzalez Posada will meet with other officials of President Devalle's administration. [Text]
[Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Dec 85 p 27 PA] /9274

CSO: 3348/289

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

BANK REPORT SHOWS 1984 GDP GROWTH OF 4.1 PERCENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Nov 85 p 7

[Text]

BASSETTERRE, Nov. 17, (CANA)

The economy of St. Kitts and Nevis recovered from a 4.9 per cent decline in 1983 to record a 4.1 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1984, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

The contribution of sugar cane cultivation to output in 1984 rose by eight per cent and that of the agricultural sector as a whole by seven per cent.

The manufacturing sector increased its output by 9.5 per cent, after a decline of 11 per cent during 1983.

But real output in the manufacturing sector in 1984 was still below the level reached in 1982. The 1984 performance of construction was similar to the previous year, increasing by four per cent.

Output in the hotel and restaurants sub-sector, which had peaked in 1981 and declined over the next two years, increased by 9.7 per cent in 1984 to a real income level almost equivalent to that of 1981.

Other sectors, such as electricity and water, wholesale and retail trade and transport maintained steady, if modest, growth.

The rate of inflation,

as measured by increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has been declining steadily since 1980 but increased marginally to 2.7 per cent in 1984 from 2.6 per cent in 1983.

Upward pressure was put on the CPI by the housing sector which increased by 36.8 per cent during the year, registering the largest single increase for any group.

The hike in the price of housing reflected increases in the cost of building materials, higher land and house taxes (which have been passed on into higher rents) and the greater demand for accommodation as a result of the opening of the school of veterinary medicine, the Bank said.

An increase in domestic exports over the 47 million dollars (one EC dollar ; 37 US cents) achieved in 1983 was projected for 1984 in light of the increase in sugar exports which usually constitute 60 per cent to 65 per cent, the Bank said. Sugar exports in 1984 rose by 14 per cent to 30.8 million dollars.

/12851

CSO: 3298/212

ST LUCIA

JOSIE, ODLUM MAY PATCH UP SLP, PLP DIFFERENCES

Josie Press Release

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 2 Nov 85 p 5

[Article: "Preparing for Elections: Josie, Odlum Patching up"]

[Text] INDICATIONS are that political rivals George Odlum of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) and former Minister of Agriculture, Peter Josie are gradually patching up their differences in time for the next general elections.

This week Josie issued a statement firmly defending Odlum from what he called the "hysteria that is being built up among the file of Labour Party supporters..." The hysteria, he said, surrounded "a lot of what happened during the Labour Party reign" and it was being made to appear that "George Odlum was the main and only reason why the St. Lucia Labour Party fell."

Said Josie: "I think it might be opportuned to remind people - although this might not do the cause of Labour any good - that as far as I am concerned George Odlum is not the issue or problem in St. Lucia today. It is the United Workers Party. And if we have to encapsulate the United Workers Party in one man then that man is John Compton the leader of the Party and Government."

Josie, who is now President of the Seamen, Waterfront and General Workers Union and Odlum had been close friends early in their political careers but stood divided during the intense infighting soon after the SLP swept the polls in 1979. The two men had kept their distance at the fall of the SLP in 1982 but speculation that the two were wooing each

other mounted when rumours spread that the PLP and SLP were exploring a merger to contest the next general election due in 1987.

"I therefore believe that the St. Lucia Labour Party would be well advised to spend less time in spreading propaganda against individuals who are not now in political office and to try to get its act together in terms of its manifesto, in terms of getting to know what the problems of the country are. Because in my view it is easier to get into political office today than it probably was in 1979 or 82..." Josie said in his statement.

He said that even conservatives in St. Lucia agreed that the government was not doing what it had promised to do and in fact St. Lucia was worst off today in many ways than it was before the 1979 general elections.

Continued Josie: "Sometimes I believe that there are personal vendettas between some leading SLP people and George Odlum and I do not want the SLP to be used for personal vendettas against individuals who are basically anti-Compton and pro-Labour..."

He stressed that "unless we can somehow come to some arrangement or agreement between SLP and PLP Compton will continue to stay in power."

Josie said he did not want to lead as a condition but he was sure that he would be as "good a Prime Minister or better than the majority of people who are now pretending that they can lead and want to be in politics."

According to him: "My fingers have been burnt, I have worked as a Minister of Agriculture." (D.V.).

PLP Organ's Report

Castries CRUSADER in English 2 Nov 85 pp 1, 11

[Article by Nicholas Joseph: "Josie Tells SLP Stop Abuse and Start Dialogue"]

[Text] Peter Josie, a key personality in the St. Lucia Labour Party, and former Minister, who almost single-handedly organised and led a demoralised St. Lucia Labour Party into the last General Elections, has advised his party colleagues to stop the abuse of individuals who are not in Government.

Mr Josie a former Agriculture and Foreign Affairs Minister in the last S.L.P. Government, in a strongly worded statement to the press this week left no doubt who he was referring to when he said, "There is a hysteria that is being built up among the rank and file of Labour Party supporters against George Odum as an individual. It surrounds a lot of what happened during the last S.L.P. reign. It is being made to appear that George Odum was the main and only reason why the St. Lucia Labour Party fell".

He continued, "I want to make it clear that as far as I am concerned, George Odum is not the issue or problem in St. Lucia today. It is the United Workers Party, and if we have to incapsulate the U.W.P. in one man, then that man is John Compton, the leader of the Party and Government, and all thinking St. Lucians agree that the Government is not doing what it has promised to do. In fact St. Lucia is worse off today, in many ways, than it was before the 1982 General Elections."

Mr. Josie contends that the St. Lucia Labour Party would be well-advised to spend less time in spreading propaganda

against individuals who are not now in political office, and spend its time in getting its act together, in terms of preparing its manifesto and understanding the problems in the country.

The former Minister is of the opinion that it is easier to assume political office now, because everybody is seized of the negative effects of John Compton on the economy.

Mr. Josie informed the Crusader that in the course of presenting a report to the executive last Sunday he made it clear what his position was, since some people were of the opinion that he was secretly

conniving with George Odum to undo any work that the Labour Party might be doing. He said, "I had stayed two years without being in any communication with George Odum. One morning about 6 O'clock, I was going to my mother's home which is in Reduit Park and I saw Odum's van packed half way up that hill going to Gros Islet and Julian Hunte and Tyrone Maynard were at the side of the road talking to Odum, and I made up my mind there and then, that if these guys who are telling people especially Tyrone Maynard that George Odum is the poison of St. Lucia and here are the same guys talking to Odum".

Mr. Josie said that it was from that point in time he made up his mind that there should be some kind of dialogue with George Odum and that is precisely what he is doing now.

The Labour Party candidate for Vieux Fort South is of the view that the feeling of Labour Party supporters is not reflected in the position taken by the leadership of the St. Lucia Labour Party.

He said, "The feeling that people of Labour have, is not I suspect reflected by the leadership of the S.L.P. In fact it is a closed feeling and sometimes I believe that there are personal vendettas between certain leading S.L.P. people George Odum, and I do not want the St. Lucia Labour party to be used for personal vendettas against individuals who are basically anti-Compton and pro-labour".

Mr. Josie continued, "Unless we can somehow come to some arrangement or agreement between the S.L.P. and P.L.P. Compton will continue to stay in power. But I also have a strong feeling that there are leading S.L.P. people who would prefer to see Compton in power rather than to see the back of Compton, and maybe to see Odum in some Ministerial position".

Mr. Josie is of the opinion that what the people of St. Lucia would like to see is a fighting force that would remove Compton from political office and any serious politician would work towards this goal.

The former S.L.P. Minister informed the Labour Party gathering that St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton is a spent force and it is pointless talking to him. He said, "I believe that George Odum has

political currency left, and that Odum was one of the most brilliant politician in St. Lucia and indeed the Caribbean... I also told them that George Odum knew the measure of all of them, and that all of them in the final analysis would be prepared to make a deal with Mr. Odum before myself, because Odum knows me well enough to know my price." He continued, "If anybody feels they can manipulate in the background and try to get the Vieux-Fort seat, or indeed any other seat from me. I want to tell the people of St. Lucia that I am free as a citizen, as is anybody to contest election once they meet the basic requirements of the law."

Mr. Josie contends, that he can be as good a Prime Minister as anybody else. "I don't want to lead as a condition but I am sure that I can be as good a Prime Minister or better than the majority of people who are pretending that they can lead and they want to be in politics. My fingers have been burnt. I have worked as a Minister of Agriculture, and I believe that they will be hard pressed to get a Minister who is committed to Agriculture as myself." said Josie.

The St. Lucia Labour Party stalwart stated further that there are people who are supposed to be leaders of the St. Lucia Labour Party who are yet to cast a vote in any election for the St. Lucia Labour Party. He said, "I am making no apology for that, those persons will have to win their spurs, and the only way to win it, is to show the people on the streets that you are fighting in their cause and against the Government that is against the people of St. Lucia."

Mr. Josie and Mr. Odum have had a long history of brother-hood and struggle in the political arena in St. Lucia. The combined efforts of the two have proven to be an unmatched opposition force against Compton and the United Workers Party. It was through their relentless struggle and mobilisation of the masses that Compton was totally routed from office in 1979 and the St. Lucia Labour Party won a spanking victory, capturing twelve of the seventeen seats at stake.

ST LUCIA

PLP PLANS PARTY CONGRESS TO START 19 JANUARY 1986

Castries CRUSADER in English 16 Nov 85 p 8

[Article: "P.L.P. Congress Plans Progress"]

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party has used its last two Executive meetings to consolidate plans for its Congress very early in the new year.

Following the Executive meetings of the Party, a meeting of the General Council last Saturday unanimously agreed to the holding of the Congress in January of the New Year 1986.

On Monday a meeting of the Congress

Preparatory Committee, elected at the General Council Meeting, began its work. An official of the Committee informed the Crusader that plans are moving smoothly.

Meanwhile constituency groups from around the island will be meeting to make their own preparations for the Congress.

The East Castries Constituency Group will be meeting today, in preparation for the congress.

[On page 1 of the same issue, CRUSADER quotes PLP Chairman Antonius Gibson as follows: "We have held some very successful Executive and General Council Meetings and have sat in on a number of Cell Meetings in different Constituencies. There has been very intense discussions on the policy and strategy of the Party and it was agreed at a General Council last week that the recommendation of the Congress Committee to hold a Party Congress on January 19th 1986 will be adopted."]

/12851

CSO: 3298/207

ST LUCIA

POVERTY SITUATION TO BE STUDIED BY NATIONAL GROUPS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Nov 85 p 7

[Article: "Businessmen, Government, Unions Service Organisations get Together: 'Focus on Poverty' -- Two-Day Meeting Here this Month"]

[Text] FOR two days this month -- November 21 and 22 a number of concerned St. Lucians will get together in Castries to examine poverty in St. Lucia.

This group, representing big and small business, government, trade unions and community and service organisations will attempt to chart a course through a number of programmes to alleviate the poverty situation in St. Lucia.

They will be studying the report of a social survey on the poverty situation in St. Lucia which was completed earlier this year.

The main findings of the survey of a sample of the groups involved were classified under three basic headings: (a) causes of poverty (b) sectors affected (c) programmes to deal with poverty.

Inequalities in the society resulting in lack of opportunity in all sectors was seen as a major cause of poverty. The individuals and groups who were interviewed felt that the lack of proper education and the high level of "semi-illiterate" people (literacy rate 45%) marginalises a large section of the St. Lucian society particularly the rural farming sector.

Although there has been an increase in the number of persons receiving primary, secondary and tertiary education, the contraction in employment opportunities has the effect of decreasing the value and returns from education. Thus where education was seen as a very strong factor of upward mobility in the society, this is not so today.

A number of factors cited seemed to highlight the strained relationship between capital (business) and labour (workers) in the operation of the free-enterprise economic system

which St. Lucia inherited. On the one hand the dominant profit motive only enhances the economic status of some members, who pay little attention to the economic disparities in the society. There is a poor utilisation and distribution of scarce financial resources, the absence of job opportunities and the control of major sectors of the economy by outside interests.

On the other hand there appears to be a negative approach to work and laziness on the part of workers which in the opinion of some sectors, is partly responsible for the lack of job satisfaction.

This is compounded by the absence of the essential supports for the economic system — markets, especially for agricultural products, lack of appropriate skills and a stable social atmosphere.

Above all the major problem as perceived by some of the persons interviewed seemed to result from the model of development practiced in St. Lucia where the private sector dominates and government programmes are not designed to take care of people. The productive base of the economy remains largely underdeveloped, government's policy does not address inequalities in the society and there has been a noted flight of scarce capital generated in St. Lucia.

The agricultural sector has been identified as the area most affected by this situation, especially small tenant farmers who have contributed to the economy but have not reaped the benefits of growth. The rural poor have been particularly hard hit. Also affected were the unemployed and urban youth, the illiterate, senior citizens and women.

Displaced rural women have gone into urban areas in search of work and this situation has triggered off a process of dislocation and disintegration of the family unit. This situation has placed the elderly in the society under tremendous pressure since less attention is being paid to them by their

kinfolk and the state.

The major programmes cited stem from the needs identified in addressing the causes of poverty. The education system must be adjusted to provide appropriate skills for the development of the various sectors of the economy. There should be more income generating projects facilitated by government and the private sector. The provision of solid infrastructure and public utilities throughout the island is a necessity.

At the level of economic planning, there has to be a revision of the approaches to development in agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors. Government should review its policy of development by invitation and privatisation of all sectors and introduce policies allowing for greater participation by St. Lucians in decision-making in key sectors of the economy and also effective national control.

The recommendations also addressed the social needs of the poor, calling for such definite provisions as free medical care, low cost housing, family planning programmes and community development projects.

The overall examination, however brief, of the poverty situation must be viewed within the context of the historical patterns in distribution of wealth, land tenure, thrust in education and the unbalanced development of the major income generating sectors — agriculture, tourism and industry.

The consultation will not change the course of history in two days, but perhaps set history on a new course which will in a more creative way alleviate and perhaps attack poverty in St. Lucia.

/12851

CSO: 3298/208

ST LUCIA

ODLUM CALLS ON UNIONS TO PROTEST COMPTON STATEMENT

Castries CRUSADER in English 9 Nov 85 p 1

[Article: "Odlum Calls on Unions: 'Protest Prime-Minister's Statement' --
The Strike Weapon is Outdated"]

[Text]

The Leader of the Progressive Labour Party George Odlum has written a letter to the Trade Unions of St. Lucia calling on them to protest against a Statement made by the Leader of the United Workers Party John Compton to the effect that the STRIKE WEAPON IS OUTDATED.

Party Leader Compton made the statement while addressing the 20th Convention of the United Workers Party. Mr. Compton Said: " (The countries of the Pacific rim) Have a machinery for disputes which avoids the rather wasteful, primitive and outmoded Strike Weapon."

Mr. Odlum told the Unions in his letter that the Prime Minister's call for Industrial peace and wage stability is plausible but he is treading on dangerous ground when he goes as far as suggesting that the STRIKE WEAPON is outmoded.

Mr. Odlum sees this as part of a conscious policy of destroying the only institution which workers have to represent their interests in St. Lucia. He said: " We must never forget the history of the working class struggle in St. Lucia. We must never forget that it was the courageous and selfless efforts of people like George Charles, Oleo Jn. Baptiste, Carl La Corbiniere, John Pilgrim and Charles Augustin that gave the down trodden workers of St. Lucia any vestige of self-respect and improved material conditions. It was the Strike Weapon

which served them faithfully and this Strike Weapon is the ultimate recourse of exploited workers. The Right to Strike is a fundamental human right that can never be outdated or legislated away. A worker must be free to withhold his labour. Admittedly this leaves Unions and their Leaders with the serious responsibility of using the Strike Weapon wisely and judiciously."

" It is curious," MR. Odlum continued, that at a time when all sorts of safeguards, incentives and protective measures are being afforded to CAPITAL as a factor of production that schemes are afoot for weakening LABOUR as a factor of production. This is indeed a serious development. My party has tried over the past three years to warn the Trade Unions to be wary of attempts to neutralise them and destroy their bargaining capacity. The Unions have not always understood our Party's concern that Labour and workers in general should not be exposed to the whims of capitalist oriented regimes. In the past three years workers in St. Lucia have been victimised and laid-off without any proper representation for their cause and without any redress. Our Trade Unions are duty-bound to represent the interests of St. Lucian workers against all odds. I therefore appeal to you to make some form of protest to bring this matter to the attention of the Prime Minister.

/12851

CSO: 3298/207

ST LUCIA

PLP ORGAN REPORTS COMPTON CRITICISM OF MINISTER

Castries CRUSADER in English 9 Nov 85 p 3

[Unsigned Article: "A Party in Shambles"]

[Text]

Reports reaching the Crusader this week indicated that the Minister of Agriculture Ira D'Auvergne has called on the Prime Minister to withdraw a statement he made at the Convention last Sunday. Our source informed us that the Minister informed the workers, that he had made this call to the Prime Minister.

When contacted for a comment on the matter the permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, said that he was not prepared to make any comment on the Prime Minister's Convention Speech. However, he did not deny nor confirm the reports that the figures quoted by the Prime Minister were wrong.

Prime Minister John Compton addressing his party's 20th Annual Convention last Sunday unleashed a vicious attack on the extension officers in the Ministry of Agriculture. He accused them of not giving the farmers the necessary assistance.

He said, "But we must ask ourselves the question whether our achievement in this field could not have been greater? Do the farmers get the necessary support? Do they get the planting material? Do they get the advice from the extension officers? How could they when 62 percent of the Extension Officers are either on leave or attending courses abroad, and another 15 percent are engaged in activities other than extension? Where is the technical leadership of that Ministry? All these questions are being urgently addressed and you will soon hear the weeping and gnashing of teeth. But the signal will go out loud and clear. Get on or get out".

Crusader understands that Minister D'Auvergne considers the Prime Minister's statement as an indirect attack on him and

has subsequently called on the Prime Minister to withdraw the statement.

Minister D'Auvergne was unavailable for comment, because he is out of the state.

A top ranking official informed the Crusader that the figures quoted by the Prime Minister were wrong. This is no surprise, because the Prime Minister has a serious problem with figures. The Prime Minister is famous for deliberately distorting figures for his own political convenience.

Political observers here are of the opinion that the statement tells more of the incompetence of the United Workers Party Administration than of the workers. In fact, information reaching our news-desk indicated that some people have been virtually sent on leave.

The Government recently embarked on a retrenchment policy. A number of Health Workers were sent home last month, and some more are to go sometime this month. The Prime Minister's statement is therefore seen as a stepping stone to further retrenchment in the public service. He indicated that much, when he said, "But the signal will go out loud and clear. Get on or get out".

While Prime Minister John Compton has repeated on several occasions that there is no room for him and the I.M.F. in St. Lucia. He has been slowly, but speedily, implementing I.M.F. terms and conditions.

The Prime Minister should not be allowed to have his way this time around. The workers must demand an apology or else Compton must Go!

ST LUCIA

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL TO BE FORMALLY LAUNCHED

Castries CRUSADER in English 16 Nov 85 p 3

[Article: "P.M. Must Obey or Pay"]

[Text]

The controversial National Youth Council which has had three previous postponements will be launched tomorrow 17th November 1985.

This announcement was made on Wednesday by President Mario Michel while addressing a press conference. Mr. Michel informed the Press that after much compromise and bending backwards in an effort to achieve a reconciliation, at a meeting of the General Council last Saturday, it was agreed that the launching of the N.Y.C. will proceed on Sunday 17th November 1985, and Minister of Youth Romanus Lansiquot will not be invited.

Mr. Michel said, "We met in General Council last Saturday and it was resolved that the launching will proceed on Sunday November 17th 1985. Our position holds that we have no confidence in Mr. Romanus Lansiquot as Minister of Youth and will not be inviting him to the launching."

He continued, "it was also decided that a proposal we had once made for having new elections, something which the Ministry had requested at one time... will no longer be upheld, because at every opportunity the October 5th meeting expressed full confidence in the National Executive as elected. The National Executive will proceed to serve its full two years."

Mr. Michel is of the view that the fuddle which exist between the Ministry and the N.Y.C. has always been a one-sided affair.

He said, "We have listened unanswered, to the many accusations levelled against the Council, levelled against members of the Executive and so on, and we never cared to respond to these allegations."

And added, "The N.Y.C. is in the business of cooperation and coordination and not confusion and confrontation and we really intend to stick to that course."

The President told the Press, that there is much work to be done and he will not entertain quarrels with anyone who seems to have nothing better to do than to embark on quarrels with every National Organisation that in some way relates to his Ministry. He said, "When it is not N.Y.C. is N.F.U. or Media Association or Photographers Association, or somebody."

Mr. Michel indicated that the non-participation of Government in the N.Y.C. will not in anyway halt the work of the organisation. "The Youth will decide where the N.Y.C. goes and what direction it takes and not Government". Said the President.

The President is also of the opinion that if the Prime Minister does not take action, in response to a resolution sent to him by the youth, calling on him to relieve Minister Lansiquot of his portfolio as Minister of youth, then the youth will not

fail to do so after the next eighteen months. He said, "If the Prime Minister fails to heed the call of the youth to relieve the country of Mr. Lansiquot as Minister of youth, we have a reasonable degree of confidence that the electorate will not fail to do it".

Vice President of the N.Y.C. and President of the Mon Repos Youth Council, Mr. Peter Fevriere told newsmen that the rumblings between the Ministry and the N.Y.C. were created by the Ministry and more specifically by the Minister. He said that the basic objective of the N.Y.C. is the betterment of the youth, and in this respect the N.Y.C. is not supposed to be political. However, he said it appears that the Ministry has other objectives than the fundamental one that relates to the youth".

The National Youth Council was established in April during a National Consultation of youth sponsored by the Government appointed I.Y.Y. Committee. However, since its formation Minister Lansiquot made it known that the Ministry would not co-operate with the newly formed organisation accusing members of the Executive of being promoters of "doubtful ideologies."

Meanwhile, a resolution tabled by youth groups, two weeks ago, calling on the Prime Minister to relieve the Minister Romanus Lansiquot of his portfolio as Minister of youth has not been replied to. This disclosure was made to the press by the President Mario Michel in the course of a press interview this week.

/12851
CSO: 3298/207

ST LUCIA

EX-TEACHERS UNION LEADER OFFERS TO WITHDRAW RESIGNATION

Castries CRUSADER in English 2 Nov 85 p 9

[Article: "S.L.T.U. Ex-Secretary Recants"]

[Text]

Alfred Jn Baptiste former General Secretary of the St. Lucia Teachers Union who resigned his post last month and left the island to pursue a course of study, has written to the Union, proposing to withdraw his resignation if this will facilitate him giving clarifications as required of him as General Secretary.

Following Mr. Jn Baptiste's resignation there has been wide-spread allegations that he has been involved in areas of financial irregularities.

The S.L.T.U. President Mr. Jn Francois told the Crusader last month that the matter has been placed in the hands of the Police.

The Police has since confirmed that a matter given to them by Mr. Mario Mitchel, Legal Representative for the S.L.T.U. is currently under investigation.

Mr. Jn Baptiste in his letter to the Union also called on them to dissociate themselves from individuals who are not part of the S.L.T.U. or any organisation which is actively participating in the spreading of rumours and allegations, which implicate the officers of the S.L.T.U.

The full text of Mr. Jn Baptiste's letter to the President and General Council Members date 4th October, 1985 reads as follows:

"Dear Colleagues,

Considering the rumours and allegations in circulation since my letter of resignation as General Secretary of the SLTU; the extent to which they (rumours, allegations) have/ can create confusion which will undoubtedly impart negatively on the continued growth and development of the Union, the following may be worth considering:

1. Firstly, I have taken the solemn decision to withdraw my letter of resignation. It is my view that so doing would facilitate my giving clarifications, as required and as General Secretary, to dispel the rumours and allegations.
2. Secondly, instead of resigning, I wish to make a formal request for study leave, WITHOUT PAY, effective September 16, 1985.

Let me state however, that if permission is not granted for (2) above, then my letter of resignation stands.

3. Thirdly, and on the other hand, if permission is granted, there are certain safeguards and measures which should be taken seriously:

(a) the Union should publicly dissociate itself from all other individuals (who are not part of the SLTU), and/ or any organisation actively participating in the

spread of rumours and allegations which implicate the Officers of the SLTU,

(b) caution should be taken with those individuals from other Unions who have been given questionable advice to some Executive Officers,

(c) the possibility that all this confusion is intended to eventually weaken the St. Lucia Teachers' Union.

4. While it may not be prudent, in light of the crisis on hand, to make the above (a and b in particular) a pre-condition for anything, the extremes to which some persons and organizations have gone, to criminally malign my name and smear my character, is sufficient cause for concern and suspicion.

Suspicion that all, is not above board, that the situation has been deliberately provoked and there are hidden AGENDAS.

There can be no conceivable justification for any person in the leadership of the SLTU to embark on a course which is so fraught with danger and obviously injurious to the outlook and prestige of the Union.

In fact, not even over differences with the government on matters related to pay increases or maternity leave, do I recall those individuals (?) being so vociferous and determined.

The basis can only lie in conspiracy and deceit - a PLOT.

5. Alternatively, or this can be in addition to No. 2 and 3; I wish to propose that the General Council; as the highest body between National General Meetings, should appoint an Independent Commit-

tee: to look into the allegations made by the President, and any other concerns.

The said Committee can comprise:

- (a) the senior and junior Trustees,
- (b) the last Auditor of the Unions Finances.

And it should be the duty of all Executive Officers to co-operate fully with this Committee.

6. Such a course of action will serve the Union better, in the long run, rather than the rash and hasty conclusions drawn on the basis of the President's alleged investigations.

The Kangaroo-style justice does not augur well for an organization which has, over the years, fought relentlessly, to safeguard the rights of teachers.

7. It is my sincere hope too, that a General Council meeting will be summoned, as expeditiously as was done previously, to discuss my requests and suggestions.

Yours in the struggle
ALFRED JN BAPTISTE

Meanwhile, Registrar of Trade Unions, Mr. Selwyn Vincent, attached to the Labour Department, has written the St. Lucia Teachers Union seeking clarification on a letter copied to him by the S.L.T.U.

Mr. Vincent was not prepared to elaborate but stated simply, that he had held preliminary discussions with officials of the Union following his letter seeking certain clarifications, and the matter is being looked into.

/12851

CSO: 3298/208

ST LUCIA

REPORT ON ECONOMY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1985

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 9 Nov 85 p 3

[Article: "St. Lucia's Economy Grew Substantially Says ECCB"]

[Text] THE economy of St. Lucia grew quite substantially in 1984 by about five percent as activity expanded in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

According to a report and statement of accounts released by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) for the financial year which ended March 31, 1985, this performance represented a considerable improvement over 1983 when, not only was growth much lower at round two percent, but overall developments were still affected by the sharp decline in construction consequent upon the completion of the works at the Hess Company oil transhipment plant.

The report states that "the more even spread of growth activity in 1984 was associated with estimated increases in investment and with an even more rapid rise in domestic consumption."

In consequences, continued the report, the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments widened by some five percentage points of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), comparing 1984 with 1983, while domestic savings contracted in slightly smaller proportionate terms.

INCREASES

The preliminary estimate of GDP shows that the sectoral distribution of production increases was more even in 1984 than in 1983. Both Primary and tertiary sectors have advanced almost equivalently at between five and six percent while the secondary sector (mainly

manufacturing and construction on average expanded at roughly a half of those rates.

The overall increase in the growth of agricultural crops has decelerated after the more rapid advances in 1982 and in 1983 following the recovery from hurricane disasters. In the relatively modest performance of agricultural crops in 1984, however, output of bananas recorded a very substantial increase of about 18 percent. Although fruits and vegetables are very small in relation to total values of other agricultural crops, the recorded 1984 volume increase of two-thirds is outstanding. The production of coconuts was also substantial and gave rise to an increase in coconut oil production of a third.

Secondary production which had fallen in importance in the economy since 1981 recovered in 1984 largely on account of an acceleration in construction activity which as already indicated, was in sharp decline in the recent earlier years.

However, it is in the tertiary (or services) sector, which accounts for some three quarters of the country's output, that growth was broadly sustained and in which an increase in output of some 5% is estimated to have occurred. In so far as growth of services had positive effects on the balance of payments, it is significant to note that the output of hotels and restaurants expanded by about 8% in 1984, the second

consecutive year in which growth in that sub-sector proceeded at that rapid rate. The total expansion in services was due also to sharp increases of 14% and 13% in the respective outputs of the utilities and communications sub-sectors.

APPROVAL

The budget approved by Parliament for the fiscal year 1984/85 envisaged economic recovery and projected a growth rate of the economy in 1984 of five percent. The budget was committed to ensuring that revenue increases kept up with the growth in recurrent expenditure so that adequate local contribution to development projects, whether cofinanced or completely locally funded, would be available. The projected growth rate of the economy was realised and there was substantial improvement in the current operations of the Central Government.

While fiscal years do not coincide with calendar years, comparisons of current revenues with the GDP do indicate an increasing elasticity in revenue yields. These have grown since 1981 by about two percentage points to yield

in 1984 almost 30% of the GDP. The improvement in the current account performance has resulted therefore from a slower growth in current expenditures which have over the four years increased in relation to Gross Domestic Product by about one and a half percentage points. Although the balance of current budgetary operations has improved markedly over the previous three years, it is nonetheless significant to note that expenditure in the 1984/85 fiscal year has grown faster than the Gross Domestic Product.

Personal emoluments have contributed most to this growth of current expenditure. This category increased by about 5% during fiscal year 1984/85, while expenditure on goods and services has remained at about the same level as in the previous fiscal year.

The surplus in the current budget of government was too small to make any significant impact on the level of domestic savings. There is potential for increasing the contributions of domestic resources to the financing of investments, above the level realised in 1984, by putting greater emphasis on the mobilisation of private sector savings.

/12851

CSO: 3298/208

ST LUCIA

GOVERNMENT ACTS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THEN BACKS DOWN

Announcement of New Measures

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 9 Nov 85 p 1

[Article: "Gov't Halts Illegal Foreign Exchange"]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has made it mandatory for importers of goods for commercial purposes to obtain the necessary foreign exchange control permission. This means that importers will now have to produce such evidence if their goods are to be cleared by the Customs and Excise authorities.

A statement issued by the Director of Finance, Planning and Statistics, Dwight Venner says that the new measure is an attempt to halt the illegal exportation of foreign exchange. The statement says that persons who evade the exchange control system have an unfair advantage by not paying the two per cent tax which has to be paid by persons who adopt the correct procedure.

As a result of the illegal export of hard currency, the statement adds government loses revenue and some persons acquire a distinct advantage over others.

"Government felt that if a tax exists, all persons liable to pay should pay, and that persons wishing to export the hard-earned foreign currency of the country, should go through the official system. In addition it is far better to make some serious attempt to collect revenue from people who try to evade existing taxes, than to impose new taxes on the conscientious ones who pay," continues the statement.

It says the social and economic programmes of the government cannot run without revenue and "everyone must contribute his fair share."

According to the statement importers who travel to purchase goods overseas, will now have to obtain exchange control approval to cover their purchases in full, before they leave and that the exchange control form must have the stamp of the bank to show that the foreign currency was purchased.

Arrangements have been made with the commercial banks for what the statement calls the "genuine exceptions" and "many different ways" in which goods can be imported, adds the statement.

Successful Protests

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by David Vitalis: "Protest Over Foreign Currency Rules Successful -- Gov't Backs Down But Speculators Must Comply"]

[Excerpt] **STRONG** protest by the Island's commercial sector has forced government to revise a number of foreign exchange control measures which it introduced late last month. The measures made it mandatory for importers of goods for commercial purposes to present evidence of exchange control approval before their goods were cleared by the Customs authorities.

As the situation now stands, most of the new measures have been withdrawn and others have been relaxed. In fact, only those businessmen who import goods on open accounts and 'speculators' will be required to adhere to the new rules. 'Speculators' will have to obtain exchange control approval to cover their purchases in full, before they leave the island.

But those importers whose documents go through commercial banks will be exempted from filling out Eastern Caribbean Currency (EC) forms as long as their documents are consigned to a bank. Also exempted are imports into freezone areas for industries operating under incentives; imports of government and statutory corporations; imports of individuals who use the foreign exchange from

goods which they export to buy other goods for import without first bringing the foreign exchange into St. Lucia.

Government said the measures had to be imposed in order to stop the illegal export of hard-earned currency and to enforce a two per cent tax payable on foreign exchange transactions.

The exchange control guidelines drew outrage from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, other business organisations and individual businessmen who held a series of meetings with the Ministry of Finance. The Chamber of Commerce argued that the requirements would not effectively halt the illegal export of currency and that they adversely affected the operations of merchants who already paid their two per cent tax through the banks.

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Nov 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Policy of Non Consultation"]

[Text]

THE controversy and confusion which has arisen over the new foreign currency regulations, must serve as another grim reminder to the government, that it needs to change its ways when it comes to taking decisions that are likely to affect significantly large sections of the population.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the government believes in its policy of non-consultation, judging from the number of similar incidents it has had to face during its rule. This sort of behaviour is not conducive to the retention of the stability that the government so often credits itself with having brought back to St. Lucia. Anyday, a more controversial issue can easily undermine that stability.

Month after month, the people of this country find themselves having to dance to this or that tune, by merely hearing about it on the radio or by being party to a rumour or unofficial report.

Already this year we have seen this sort of confusion over increased vehicle licences, the demolition of houses at the Mangue in Vieux Fort, and the introduction of new health and safety regulations by the Minister of Labour. In fact, in the latter case, certain trade unions have criticised the legislation and contended that they were not consulted on its content.

That the very government which three years ago sought a tripartite understanding with the private sector and trade unions on the question of the island's economic recovery, now finds it appropriate to pass legislation or introduce regulations which concerns them or their members without prior consultation, is unfortunate, to say the very least.

We wish to state here that we support any move by the government to block the avenues through which foreign currency transactions are carried out to the detriment to the national economy. In fact, we have repeatedly criticised the Government for its failure to take positive action to deal with those persons who rob the public coffers of its due.

But one expects that the government, in trying to meet its objectives, would take the electorate which gave it such a massive mandate, into its confidence, a little more often. One expects that the government would pursue a policy of consultation with the public on an ongoing basis to explain the reasons for any move that might prove controversial, or affect the population at large.

But this is not happening. Ironically, at the recent convention of his ruling party, the Prime Minister, speaking on the E.C. from controversy, left little doubt that he was unaware of the new regulations. He even pleaded for bureaucracy (the public service) to "get off the backs" of the people.

This sounded good. But one must ask: Who really is running the government? The Prime Minister is also the Minister of Finance and if directives are being issued in the name of his government that he either knows nothing about, or does not approve, then something must be wrong in the administration.

Finally, we must also ask: Does all this have anything to do with UWP Chairman Henry Giraudy's warnings at two successive conventions of the party that it was the politician, and not the civil servant that was answerable to the people?

/12851
CSO: 3298/208

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DRUGS ARE ONE CONCERN IN NEW FISHING PACT WITH VENEZUELA

U.S., Caracas Roles

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] A new fishing agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela was signed in Port-of-Spain yesterday.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Dr. Simon Alberto Consalvi arrived early yesterday for the signing.

In picture he is in discussion with Rep. Errol Mahabit, Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of External Affairs (right). At centre is Mr. Horacio Arteaga Acosta, Chief of Cabinet of the Venezuelan Government.

Signing took place at the Hilton Hotel. (Photo by Maurice Brown). [photo not reproduced]

Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuelan fishermen will now be able to legally use each other's waters after an agreement signed yesterday.

But the reciprocal pact excludes the Venezuelans from fishing off the sister isle, Tobago.

And, revealed Mr. Errol Mahabir, External Affairs Minister, Trinidad and Tobago will get help from both the United States and Venezuela in a joint battle against drugs.

The fishing agreement was signed by a team from the country headed by Mr Mahabir, and Foreign Affairs Minister for Venezuela, Dr. Simon Alberto Consalvi who headed his country's delegation at the Hilton Hotel ceremony.

The agreement, which lasts for two years in the first instance, also means that Trinidad and Tobago will be allowed Honorary Councils in the fishing ports of Guiria and Tucupita, where many of this country's nationals have been detained.

Ambassador to Caracas, Mr. Christopher Thomas, told the "Guardian" that negotiations were cordial but tough in some areas — the cutting off of Tobago waters from the Venezuelans being a difficult affair.

Mr. Mahabir said that Prime Minister George Chambers had spoken to United States Vice-President George Bush over the problem on drugs in the region, during wide-ranging talks in Miami recently.

Mr. Bush, a former member of an anti-drug task force, has agreed to supply this country with some of its vast resources, mainly up-to-date information on fighting the drug-runners to this country.

MUTUAL ADVANTAGE

Venezuela, where four Trinidad and Tobago citizens have been recently arrested over cocaine — smuggling charges, will also help with information.

One of the Trinidadians held is a 14-year-old boy.

In a formal statement at yesterday's signing, Minister Mahabir said the agreement has been the result of intense negotiations which have engaged the attention of the two Governments since the previous fishing agreement expired in 1983.

"That we have been able to reach agreement is indicative of the importance which our Governments attach to the harmonious development of our relations to the mutual advantage of our peoples," he said.

Under the new agreement it was agreed to grant the fishermen of both countries reciprocal access to each other's waters. In this way, continued access to the shrimping grounds in Venezuelan waters would be provided for Trinidad and Tobago fishermen, in particular, those from the south-west peninsula, who have habitually carried out shrimping activities there, and who have depended to a great extent on those activities for their livelihood.

In addition, access will be provided for Venezuelan fishermen to marine areas under the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago. This agreed regime will allow fishermen to pur-

Plans for Further Talks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 27 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Excerpts]

NEGOTIATIONS will continue on a maritime delimitation agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela although the new fishing agreement between the two countries was signed at the Blue Emperor Room at the Trinidad Hilton yesterday.

It was also announced that Prime Minister George Chambers and External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir will visit Venezuela in January following an invitation extended by Venezuela's President Jaime Lusinchi during their talks at the Miami Conference on the Caribbean.

Mahabir said a new agreement was a priority when he became External Affairs Minister. He added that the old one, which expired in 1983, had areas of ambiguity which the new agreement attempted to remove.

Referring to the delimitation, he said the Venezuelan team was here working it out with local officials and that a meeting was scheduled for today.

He said the agreement covered the size of net, the number of fishermen on the boat, the number of trips allowed. Fishermen would be allowed to fish for nine months a year.

Venezuela has also promised to work along with this country to stamp out the narcotics trade, a problem which both Foreign Ministers stated plagued the two countries. Mahabir said that Venezuela will provide data and information on the terms of enforcements.

10 January 1986

Pact's Provisions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 85 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] Under the new fishing agreement signed with Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago companies will have a first purchase option on 50 per cent of all catches made by the Venezuelans operating in this country's waters.

External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir revealed yesterday in Parliament as he gave a detailed report of the pact which was signed this week by officials of the two countries.

This ended a two-year period during which Trinidad and Tobago fishermen were repeatedly intimidated and imprisoned by Venezuelan authorities for allegedly violating that country's marine laws.

National Fisheries Ltd., the money-losing State enterprise which got a \$50 million bailout this year from Government, is expected to be a major beneficiary of the new accord. Trinidad and Tobago fishermen will also be required to sell 50 per cent of their catches to Venezuelans after working in the neighbouring republic's waters.

But a key aspect of the two-year agreement is the preservation of a two-mile band in the North and South coasts of Trinidad and the North Coast of Venezuela.

Only nationals of each country will be allowed to fish there. Here is where the matter of marine boundaries is very important, because in that approximate zone there is the "maintenance of a common fishing area" for Trinidadians and Venezuelans.

Waters around Tobago are not to be used by the Venezuelans and according to Mr Mahabir in the House of Representatives yesterday, two aspects of the new agreement are major issues which separate it from the old pact:

--The old agreement, which lasted from 1977 to 1983, allowed this country's shrimpers to operate in three areas off Venezuela's coast. The new accord consolidates shrimping area, in a move to cut away the confusion. This is expected to increase the shrimp catches of Trinidadians and decrease the problems of our fishermen being driven out of any one of the three formerly designated zones;

--There is now a conservation period of three months. This relates to fishing in the exclusive economic zone (off this country's North and East coasts).

Joint Projects

Mr Mahabir stressed that priority will be given to an assessment of this country's marine resources, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO, a branch of the United Nations) will be working out the maximum that this country can get from its marine areas.

The agreement also has provision for joint fisheries projects, the exchange of information about technical and economic marine issues and a generally stepped-up system of cooperation.

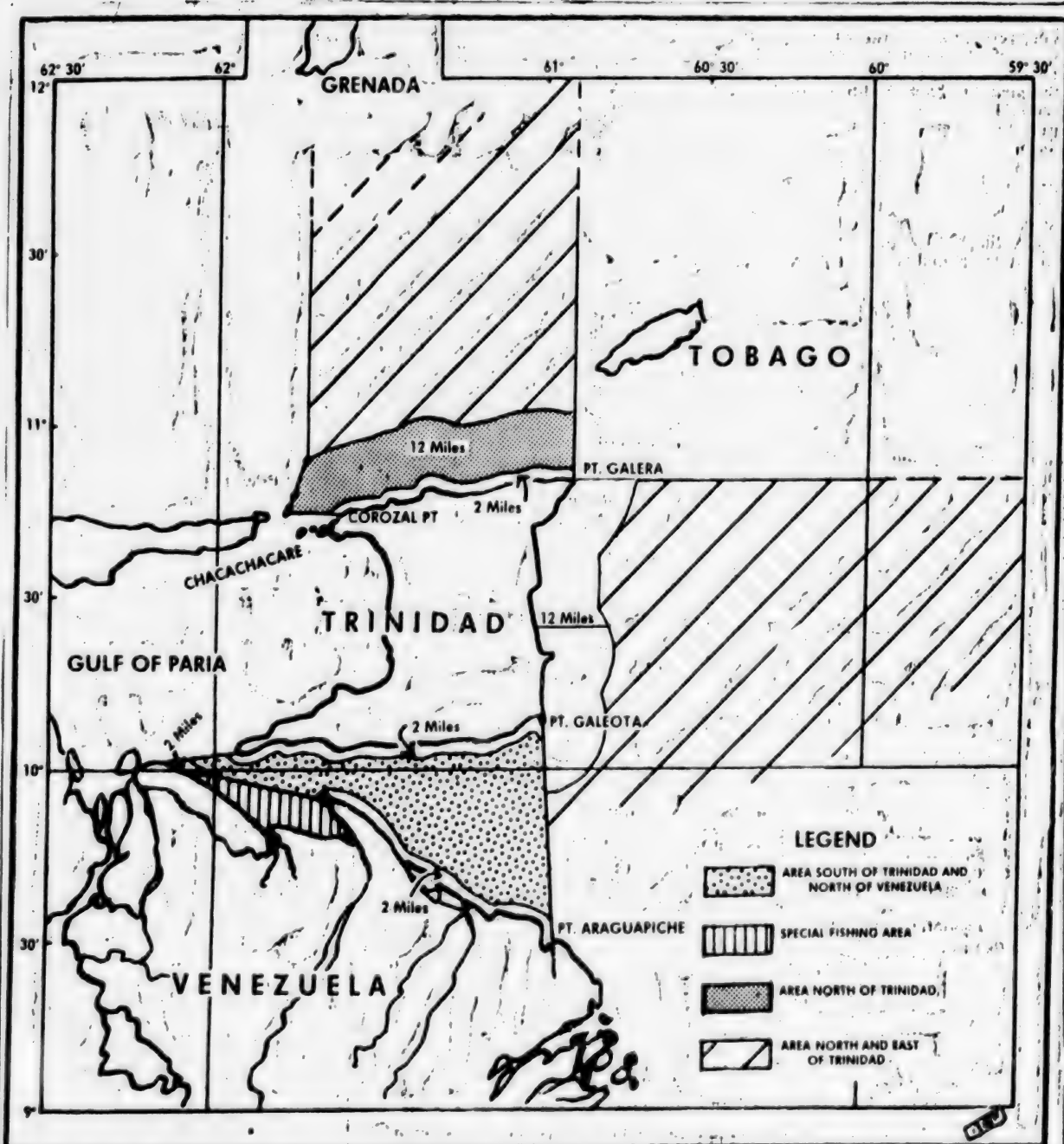
National Fisheries and various Venezuelan fishing concerns are to be involved in this project.

Mr Mahabir explained that three areas were of major concern to the government during the negotiations:

- a. The need to provide continued access for our fishermen to Venezuelan waters;
- b. The protection of these fishermen; and
- c. Conservation of this nation's fishing resources in any pact with Venezuela.

On the joint declaration on delimitation which was another agreement signed, it was envisaged that there is to be, firstly, a partial delimitation agreement in the areas of the Caribbean, the Gulf of Paria, the Columbus Channel and off the South-East Coast of Trinidad.

Talks are continuing on these marine and submarine areas.



MAP outlining fishing areas and exclusions according to the treaty signed by Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela last Tuesday.

Joint Commission

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

THE new fishing agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela will be supervised by a commission. This will involve three representatives from each country and, when necessary, advisers. The Fisheries Commission will meet at least once every six months and/or at any time desired by each country.

Conditions have been laid down for boats operating in each country's waters. These relate to sizes of the vessels, manning and storage capacity, among a number of issues.

For instance, in the Special Fishing Area where Trinidad and Tobago boats will be allowed to catch shrimp, the boats' crew will be no more than four, including the captain. The number of nets will be limited to one per boat — manually operated. The boat cannot be more than 12 metres and cannot carry more than two outboard engines with a maximum power of 110 h.p.

Only shrimp trawling will be allowed in the Special Area — and 60 boats will be allowed there by the Venezuelans. December 1 to June 30 is the time permitted for shrimping.

Other conditions vary according to areas. For instance, Venezuelans can fish off Trinidad's North Coast with boats that have six men on board, including the captain.

These boats should not be more than 13 metres long and fishing gear, which is limited to line, palangre and cordel, must be manually operated.

The Venezuelan trawling boats must not have more than 100 hooks on a palangre, and electrical and electronic equipment must be used solely for navigation.

All details of the agreement are expected to be made available to fishing groups through the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production.

Today, Mr. Philip Sealey and Mr. Boris Fabres of the Ministry will be at Cedros for the annual general meeting of the Cedros Fishing Co-operative.

Commission Functions

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 3 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

FISHERMEN to benefit from the new Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela fishing agreement will receive their permits next week.

This was announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, in an interview with the "Guardian."

Mr. Mohammed said a team headed by Mr. Mervyn La Croix, Chief Fisheries Officer, was preparing the document for the 60 local fishermen who were being selected on the basis of their involvement in the industry.

External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir announced details of the new two-year accord in the House of Representatives last Friday, during which he said a commission, comprising representatives of the two countries, would be set up to supervise the enforcement of the agreement.

Minister Mohammed explained yesterday:

"The agreement contains new features such as the conservation of fishing areas and this has to be drafted into the permits for the fishermen so they will know exactly what is required of them in carrying out their activities.

"The permits would also have the photograph of the recipients so if they are stopped by the Venezuelan Coast Guard they can show them that they are legally entitled to be there.

"We are hoping to complete this preparatory exercise this week so the permits can be given out next week."

Minister Mohammed could not say when the accord would be taken to the Venezuelan Congress for ratification.

Reporting from the "Guardian's" San Fernando Bureau, Mikey Mahabir wrote yesterday:

Fishermen in South Trinidad, particularly those at Icacos and Cedros, are hoping that when the two Government Ministers visit Icacos on Friday this week, full details will be given to them regarding the establishment of a fisheries commission.

Mr. Cyril Rogers, President of the Cedros Fishing Co-operative Society, speaking on behalf of his organisation, said they welcomed the creation of such a commission.

6-MAN COMMISSION

However, the fishermen themselves want to know more about the commission and hope that they will be given details by Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of External Affairs, and Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, when they visit Icacos on Friday.

The new fishing agreement negotiated between the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, calls for the creation of a fisheries commission, consisting of three representatives of each country together with such advisers as may be deemed necessary.

The names shall be duly communicated through diplomatic channels, and the commission shall meet at least once every six months, or any time at the request of either of the contracting parties. Meetings shall be held alternatively in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

The functions of the commission

shall be, among other things;

- To supervise the implementation of the present agreement;

- To establish the modalities of the joint undertaking of programmes in the area south of Trinidad and north of Venezuela, referred to in Article two of the agreement;

- To recommend to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and of Venezuela, the adoption of rules and measures relating to the management and conservation of the fisheries resources of the area south of Trinidad and north of Venezuela;

- To deal with all matters specifically referred to the fisheries commission in the agreement and to do all such other things consistent with the aims and purposes of the present agreement as may be necessary for the proper and effective implementation by the contracting parties, of the provisions of the said agreement; and

- Any other functions that the parties may deem necessary to refer to the commission.

The agreement also calls for the contracting parties to promote the establishment of joint venture or other co-operative arrangements for catching, processing and marketing of fisheries products.

Sales to Venezuela

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 3 Dec 85 p 7

[Excerpts]

FIFTY per cent of the fish caught in the Venezuelan shrimping waters shall be sold to Venezuelan companies according to the new fishing agreement.

This was revealed as Minister of External Affairs, Errol Mahabir presented the new fishing agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, (which was signed last Tuesday), in Parliament last Friday.

The sale shall take place in the Orinoco Delta Zone which is close to the special fishing area and it will be done in U.S. currency. The trawling nets shall have a maximum length of 15 metres and a maximum breadth of 15 metres. Fishing boats shall only use one net at a time which will be operated manually without the aid of any electrical or mechanical equipment for casting and retrieving. Finally, the maximum crew for a boat is 4.

Another stipulation of the agreement is that the fishing boats should be made of wood, a maximum of 12 metres long and with a storage capacity not more than five hundred kilograms net effective catch. Sixty of these boats will be granted access to the special fishing area by the Venezuelan Government.

GUARDIAN's Assessment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Dec 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE FISHING agreement, signed last week by the Foreign Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, will come to life when the Venezuela Congress approves and Notes are exchanged by the two countries. The agreement, tabled in Parliament last Friday, shows that Trinidad and Tobago secured its main goal — access by fishermen from the South-West to shrimp off Venezuela's coast, in what is called the Special Fishing Area.

And while Venezuela did not succeed in an apparent bid to collect a fee for this, the Trinidad fishermen have been kept to 60 permits.

Against this number, Venezuela fishermen will get 70 permits to operate in Trinidad and Tobago waters; 40 in the area between the two and 12 miles north of Trinidad, and 30 more in waters outside 12 miles on the north and east coasts of Trinidad.

Other comparisons are also in Venezuela's favour.

MORE PERMITS

Storage capacity is fixed at 500 kilograms maximum for the 60 Trinidadian boats receiving permits to operate, for seven months a year, in the Special Fishing Area. But the 40 Venezuelan boats, with maximum capacity of two tonnes, can fish year-round off Trinidad's North Coast. Still larger boats from Venezuela, with capacity of 40 tonnes, will operate in the waters outside the 12-mile limit on the North and East Coasts. They will pay a fee of \$200 US and can fish for nine months a year.

To an outside observer, therefore, a question hangs over the equitableness of the agreement. There seems to be scope for a reasonable increase in the number of permits for the Special Fishing Area, as the fishermen had demanded earlier.

The Government has given no information on the operation of the previous agreement. Possibly this is because the authorities do not have a complete picture themselves. They should tell us, if they do, especially how Venezuelan catches compared with ours, and how catch-sharing actually works.

In order to get a balanced picture it will be useful to know how much fish caught in Trinidad and Tobago waters was sold on the local market by Venezuelans, and how much shrimp caught at the mouth of the Orinoco River by Trinidadian boats was sold in Venezuela. If we are not monitoring this we should be doing so, to satisfy ourselves that what we give corresponds fairly with what we get.

On the face of the agreement we are giving more than a bit more than we are receiving in return.

We must respect Venezuela's deep and real concern about conservation. In relation to our own resources we ought, indeed, to share this attitude. While a notion of conservation is reflected in the three-month closed season set for Venezuelan boats fishing outside the 12-mile limit, this looks like a mere hint of interest, in the absence of a working policy in general. Hopefully, provisions in the agreement for joint research and development will help to change this.

A notable feature of the agreement is Venezuela's careful limit on engine power in the Special Fishing Area. Trinidad boats can have a maximum of two outboard motors with a maximum power for the two of 110 HP. No one motor can exceed 60 HP. Or an internal diesel engine can have a maximum power of 110 HP.

These limits may stem from a desire to preserve the "artisanal" character of shrimp trawling by Trinidadians and perhaps from conservation reasons. It may also reflect a practical concern to police the area for any non-fishing activity or illegal operations, which calls for more powerful craft than the Venezuelan authorities can cope with.

In any event no limits on engine power are put on Venezuelan boats in the two to 12-mile waters off the Trinidad North Coast. It is a curious omission, which requires explanation.

Whatever the agreement provides, it is necessary to ask how well we in Trinidad and Tobago stand, how ready, willing and able to carry it out and to see that others do. The Government has gone to the fishermen and explained its terms. This is a necessary and admirable step. We think the fishermen ought to have a continuing, permanent role, at least as advisers to the joint commission looking after the agreement.

THREE SEATS

There are three seats on the fisheries commission and three ministries — National Security, Fisheries and External Affairs — will have central roles on it. A fishermen's representative, or perhaps more than one with special interest in the different zones of fishing, could have a permanent role as advisers. This can have many advantages.

The most serious question in all this is: what is the Coast Guard going to do about the agreement? In the absence of effective surveillance from this agency the agreement would be even more one-sided than it now appears. More than fish, however, the public is concerned about smuggling — of cocaine, guns and women — while the Coast Guard seems to be having a purely ornamental role.

The Ministry of National Security must clear the air.

/8309

CSO: 3298/190

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION ASKS CHAMBERS TO RECONVENE PARLIAMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Dec 85 p 7

[Article: "Panday to PM: Reconvene Parliament"]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
OPPOSITION LEADER
Basdeo Panday has issued a call to Prime Minister George Chambers to reconvene Parliament immediately to debate the flooding disaster in many parts of the country.

He also wants Mr. Chambers to make a statement on what Government proposes to do in Central Trinidad where one woman lost her life when she was trapped inside the car in which she was travelling. It was reported that Ferdinand of 27, Sum Sum Hill, Claxton Bay, died inside the vehicle which was caught in the flood waters at Warrenville, Central Trinidad, on Wednesday evening.

Unable to get out, and being afraid

of water entering the car, the windows were put up and it is believed that the woman died of suffocation from inhaling carbon monoxide.

"It is most likely the extensive flooding will result in severe losses to farmers among other areas," said Mr. Panday.

It is a national disaster," he stressed.

He said that the Prime Minister must make a statement first of all, saying that the Government proposes to do by way of compensation those who have been devastated and secondly, he must use the machinery of the state to bring relief to those who have suffered.

Many areas in South Trinidad, including Barrackpore and Penal, suffered from floods caused by heavy rains earlier the week, but the water appeared to be subsiding.

However, hardest hit areas were in Central Trinidad.

/12851

CSO: 3298/221

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PAPER ASSAILS GOVERNMENT INCLINATION TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 85 p 8

[Editorial: "Information Is the 'Hardest Hard'"]

[Text]

ON Tuesday last week the Leader of Government Business, Senator Carlton Alert, had to withdraw a relatively simple Bill in the Senate because of the combined hostility of Independent and Opposition Members.

Nothing was wrong with the Bill itself. It was simply a matter of acquiring some lands for public purposes such as extending roads and putting up a telephone exchange.

The problem was the way the Bill was presented in the Senate, which is symptomatic of a manner of operation by various Government departments that is terribly wrong.

Senators were told a few minutes before the session started that a supplemental order paper was being circulated, and this Bill was on it. The justifiable question asked was, how could they read a Bill in order to make a decent contribution on notice like that. Senators on Independent and Opposition benches felt they were being asked to rubber stamp decisions already made.

DRIBBLES

Information is the crucial issue. Despite having the Ministry of Information and making verbal commitments about a free flow of information, official sources in many areas routinely give out no information at all. Or else they release dribbles of facts at a time when they are too late to help those wishing to make an informed comment.

Parliament is only the most frequent case. Here papers are laid in the House and Senate and no copies given to the media until long afterwards. Order papers and Bills come very late, leaving very little time for research or discussion with those affected by the Bills.

The printing of bound volumes of Hansard is far behind times, although the Hansard reporters deliver their scripts within days. We have observed papers being distributed during sessions of Parliament, indicating that they were hurriedly rushed out at the last minute.

When the Consultation on Education was held at Chaguaremas, we learned that many participants had received a complex and bulky

main document just a few days before. They could not make the best contributions possible on a crucial matter like the education system of the next five years.

In simple terms, they were being given the rubber stamp treatment. Without adequate time and information, informed comment becomes next to impossible.

When it comes to reports and details about Ministries and Government companies, information sources dry up almost completely. The Demas Report, for example, was much talked about but even members of Parliament could not get it for some time.

Numerous Commissions have been appointed, and for the majority of them enquiries about getting copies are wasted. They are sent to Cabinet and thereupon disappear from sight.

On as important a matter as the Iron and Steel Company, for instance, people seeking information were regarded as if they were enemy agents. This applies to members of the public, academic researchers as well as members of the media.

IGNORANCE

Even trivial information like when a Minister of Government is going on a foreign tour and who will be accompanying him seems to take on deadly importance to those who have such information.

Certain public officials have secretaries who give out no information at all and always report that their officers are unavailable to the media. Whenever there is a crisis of any sort the people responsible cannot be contacted, yet they express annoyance at what they call uninformed reports.

The matter goes further. Even officials appointed by Parliament seem to be unable to get information and, following this, action.

The Auditor General routinely reports having asked Government departments for details of spending, and getting no answer. He makes his report and that is the end of it. Next year he makes the same report again.

The Ombudsman has noted numerous incidents with which he is not happy, and there ends the matter. Either his reports do not go to the proper quarters, or else nobody bothers to do anything, which amounts to the same thing.

Finally, the much hailed Ministry of Information is efficient sometimes, late regularly, and totally unable to give information for an embarrassing number of occasions. Yet there seems to be some competent, people in that Ministry. It seems that they too, face a shortage of information, and simply cannot convince their officers that there is something like an information era.

Government should be reminded again that without information they foster an ignorant population acting on wrong impulses and false perceptions. A country with such a people can never leave the label developing and take on the mantle of developed.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ONR WOMEN HIT GOVERNMENT ON MOTTLEY INCIDENT, OTHER ISSUES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Nov 85 p 7

[Text]

THE National Organisation of Women (NOW) has called for investigation into the alleged shooting of Senator Wendell Mottley and into the Port of Spain City Hall affair.

NOW has also called for a restoration of the funds misappropriated by John O'Halloran and for the killer or killers of Abdul Kareem to be brought to justice.

Conscious of the recent rape of a nurse and of the vagrant problem, NOW resolved that the streets of Port of Spain should be made a safer place for citizens.

On the international front, NOW called for an end to the persecution of Winnie Mandela and sent this resolution to Her Majesty, the Queen, Margaret Thatcher, Eugenia Charles and other women in leading positions of influence.

These were some of the resolutions passed at the annual conference of NOW, the woman's arm of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), held at ONR's headquarters on Albion Street last Saturday. The conference saw the election of officers to the executive for the 1986/87 term and the registration of new and returning members.

Newly elected Chair-lady Margaret Hector urged women to use their own power for constructive not destructive purposes. Hector said there was a tendency for the ruling party to try and destroy a person once he or she disagreed with them. She also referred to British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher who she said used her destructive powers to prevent sanctions from being passed against the South African Government. "We must reject that kind of politics," she said.

She said no amount of talking could stimulate the incumbent government to initiate changes. "We have to get in there, we have to get the political power," she said. She said to her audience that they should let political power carry them further than elections so that they could achieve more for the women of this country.

Titled "Women, we have the power," the

conference included a lecture from Hazel Brown, a member of NOW who attended the Women's Conference in Nairobi and who has worked with several international women's groups.

Brown criticised the government for introducing politics in choosing women accredited to go to Nairobi.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF MOTTLEY SHOOTING CRITICIZED

Disdain for Press, Public

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 Dec 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

THERE APPEARS to us something grotesquely wrong about the way the Government and the Police have dealt with the shooting of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumers Affairs, Mr Wendell Mottley. The Opposition has attempted to raise the matter in the House of Representatives, of course, but Government ministers have treated the incident as a joke.

Indeed, the Government's attitude, or rebuttal, has seemed to suggest that the incident is not serious enough to engage the attention of the honourable members of that august house. And the police, following that curious line, have decided, it appears, that investigation of the shooting is not worthy of risk nor interest.

On Friday, November 22, for instance, when the Minister of Labour, Mr John Donaldson, rose to reply to a query from the Opposition Member for Chaguanas, Mr Winston

Dookeran, he chuckled that it was not "affairs of state" which were responsible for Mr Mottley's shooting, leading the country to speculate that it was another kind of affair (affairs of the heart, perhaps?) which had precipitated the minister's injury.

It was not surprising therefore that Mr Mottley, encouraged by the levity of his colleagues and by the complicity of the police, would continue to show a kind of disdain for the press which was still trying to get details of the shooting. When he appeared in the Senate on Tuesday, November 26, he said, irritably, that "it was a private and personal matter" and he had no more comment to make on the matter.

But what was surprising, and what was infuriating, was the fact that none of the Opposition nor Independent senators present felt an obligation to challenge Mr Mottley on the implications of the secrecy surrounding the shooting.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, warned Edmund Burke, is for good men to do nothing. The fact is, we can be sure that both Mr Russell Martineau, the Attorney-General, and Senator Gerald Furness-Smith would not sit quietly by if it appears that the slightest error by a young reporter would impeach their character or their interests. In recent times, both have filed writs against this newspaper when they believed that their honour was attacked. But both appeared to be unconcerned that in this case the honour of the entire country is being impugned.

There can be no doubt that this is what has happened, and if Mr Nizam Mohammed dared to say last Friday that "the general feeling of the public is that the murderer of Abdul Kareem will never be brought to justice" and dared to accuse the Minister of National Security, Mr Overand Padmore, of a "cover-up" in that infamous case, it is understandable to us that the public now believes that a similar cover-up has taken place in this Mottley shooting.

Tragically, everybody connected with the incident appears to be bound by a dismal oath to say nothing. Even Prime Mi-

nister George Chambers did not see it as his responsibility recently to tell the nation why Mr Mottley was unable to accompany him to Jamaica. Clearly, there are men and women — leaders in our community and people we expect to be examples of excellence — who believe that there is an authority, higher than God and Truth, to which they owe all allegiance.

It is possible, of course, that the honourable members of the Senate think that Mr Mottley's injury was the result of an unfortunate accident and therefore they see it as none of their business. But who has said this to be the case? Certainly, not the police. The truth is, all the public knows is that Mr Mottley has been shot. But how? And by whom? These questions have not been answered. And this is what makes the Senators' silence not merely irritating but frightening as well.

It is frightening because, when the Government appears to be flouting the laws of the land, it is introducing a situation where the public will question its authority to govern. And this, we all know, is a recipe for anarchy and revolt.

Robinson Call for Explanation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Dec 85 p 37

[Text]

MR. A.N.R. ROBINSON, Political Leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), has challenged Attorney General Senator Russell Martineau to make a public statement on the incident concerning his Cabinet colleague, Industry and Commerce Minister Senator Wendell Mottley who was allegedly shot and wounded recently.

Mr. Robinson was speaking at a meeting organised by NAR at Biche Saturday night.

The NAR leader told his audience that the incident was not a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Mr. Robinson continued:

"It is time for this tomfoolery to stop in Trinidad and Tobago and we the people must make our voices heard on matters which affect us."

INCIDENT

"The shooting of a Minister can never be a private matter, even if the incident occurred in his private capacity. We all must be concerned about this development."

"In the absence of an official statement you cannot help but think all kinds of things."

"A Minister of Cabinet just cannot be involved in an incident like that and keep his mouth shut..."

The NAR bandwagon moves into the Lion's Civic Centre, Circular Road, San Fernando, from 7.30 p.m. today.

Speakers include Mr. Robinson, Mr. Basdeo Panday, and Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Deputy Political Leaders of NAR.

The same team will be at Woodford Square,

Port-of-Spain on Thursday at the same time for another public session.

Theme of this meeting is "There is a crisis in the Government."

Meanwhile the National Joint Action Committee has also called for an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the incident involving Senator Mottley.

The call was made in the editorial column of the latest edition of the party's paper "Liberation."

According to the column, the incident is another example of the contempt in which people in this society are held by those in authority.

Democracy stated the editorial, entails equality of treatment and the public has a right to know the situations surrounding ministers and senators.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROBLEMS WITHIN PNM, ROLE OF CABINET ASSESSED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Dec 85 p 5

[Article by political reporter Clevon Raphael: "Revolt in the PNM: 'There Is a Strong View That Cabinet Has Hijacked the Party and This We Cannot Allow'"]

[Text] Introduction

The levy on the City Council last month will have its sequel today when the General Council of the ruling People's National Movement meets at Balisier House. The meeting has been requested by 15 members of the General Council, including the Mayor of Port-of-Spain, Stevenson Sarjeant, who was gravely embarrassed when the central government failed to provide the money required to pay a debt and the City Council found its furniture and fittings levied upon, even the mayor's office being stripped and the contents carted off to a warehouse. The issue has since been resolved in that a bank came forward with the money and the City Council's property has been restored. But the whole episode has served to highlight an existing problem between the central government and local government bodies.

For years this issue has been coming up in various ways, not the most noticeable being the row with the Tobago House of Assembly. This Assembly is Opposition-controlled and which to some extent explains the approach of confrontation that has marked relations between the Tobago Assembly and the central government. But the Port-of-Spain City Council is controlled by the ruling party. In fact the mayor is the party's public relations officer. What really is at the back of this episode? Today's meeting may provide some of the answers which observers think has to do with a revolt of the grassroots.

TODAY'S emergency meeting of the General Council of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) may well bring to a head the fractious relationships between the "closed shop" clique in the hierarchy of the PNM and the rank and file of the party.

An historical event by PNM standards, the council was summoned to this special session at the request of 15 members incensed over the debacle of Tuesday, November 19, 1985, when court marshals carted away moveable items from City Hall and threatened to sell City Hall, itself.

The embarrassing episode, which resulted from the failure of the council — controlled by the PNM — to meet a \$5.2 million debt to Millette Engineering International, has served, party sources say as the catalyst to bring out the number of ills which have been worrying many PNM faithful for a long time now.

It was not surprising that among the signatories was the man who suffered the most humiliation that day, Mayor Stevenson Sargeant.

FEW MINISTERS

A PNM source said: "There is an apparent closed shop at the top comprising a few ministers who are disdainful of councillors and even the backbenchers in Parliament.

"For obvious reasons I will not want to be quoted but these few ministers feel they can do what they want regardless of what the membership of the party might feel. They have grown so full of themselves that they seem to have no regard for how the rank and file feel."

Asked if the PNM was facing a revolt of backbenchers, the source disagreed and stressed it also was not a case of the "party" against the "Government."

What was happening, he said, was that the rank and file was revolting against the way the "closed shop" team was conducting the affairs of the party and, by extension, the Government.

Interestingly enough, the 15 signatories include executive officers of the party's Youth League, an indication of the new thrust that

this arm has assumed within the past year or so in the affairs of the party. In fact it met yesterday afternoon to map out a strategy for today's all important meeting to be held at the party's Balisier House headquarters.

Another party source told me that at today's meeting problems that have been simmering for quite some time will be aired, because members were no longer prepared to accept half-baked answers or excuses.

"There is a strong feeling of disenchantment and this incident of the City Council has served as the rallying point to effect a proper course in which the party must now proceed," he said.

"Although the matter involved the courts of the land there is a strong feeling that if the parties involved had kept the party informed of what was going on this shameful day would not have come about."

Another source commented that whenever the political leader was out of the country there was no one around to take any major decisions affecting the party.

"It is impossible to explain why this is so as the political leader is on record as saying on more than one occasion that the party must have a life of its own, as distinct as that from the Government. "He has repeatedly made this clear at his meet-the-party tour but somehow this has not yet taken hold," the source added.

Another factor which caused such a spontaneous rush to call the General Council meeting was the fact that the ministers involved are all senators.

There always has been considerable resentment by some elected backbenchers and the party's grassroots over the appointment as Cabinet ministers of people who did not face the polls.

AN ELECTION

Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams was the one who started this trend and the Constitution of the country was amended accordingly to allow it. Dr. Williams's reason, as he stated it at the time, was to enable him to appoint, via the Senate, some talented people to Government.

Some people with talent, he said, might be willing to serve, but unwilling to fight an election. Today seven senior Cabinet ministers are in the Government via the Senate, and this has not gone down at all well with elected members who had to face the rough and tumble of the campaign only to find themselves rewarded with a back seat, while others just walked in and took over

the top posts.

This has made many quite bitter. Some of the bitterness emerged during the recent visit of the Queen when a number of backbenchers protested the way they had been treated — lack of invitations to functions, etc.

Previously, there had been grumbling that backbenchers never got a chance to speak in Parliament. It was all well and good for them to go all over the country during a campaign, speaking and getting the votes, but suddenly in Parliament they were considered a bunch of dummies. In fact Dr. Williams called a lot of them "millstones", an insulting way to describe the elected representatives of the people.

But the millstones have come up with a phrase of their own, "backdoor ministers", an unfortunate term if ever there was one. These backdoor ministers have been kept under constant and critical surveillance and it is expected that this will be one of the talking points at today's meeting.

One of the critics of the backdoor ministers had this to say: "Even though they may be members of the party, one gets the impression that their allegiance lies more with the political leader — who as Prime Minister gave them the jobs and who could fire them at will — than with the party itself."

However, another PNM source, in dismissing this, mentioned Senator Russell Martineau, Attorney-General and Minister for Legal Affairs, who, he said, more than any of the other senator-ministers, identified himself with the party and was last year elected unopposed as vice-chairman of the PNM. The fact that Martineau was preferred to Hugh Francis, an elected minister, is an indication of the sensitivity with which party faithfuls view the PNM.

Another senator who was seen to identify with the party was Muriel Greene, Minister of Information, but then her main plank was the very active and effective Women's League of the party.

Which leaves the other senator-ministers — Wendell Mottley, Anthony Jacelon, John Eckstein, Neville Connell and Dr. Basil Ince. Is the party dissatisfied with them as party members?

Another party source told me the real issue today is not about factions in the party, but factions in Cabinet.

OLD-STAGERS

"There are really no factions in the party," he said. "There may be factions in Cabinet."

He went on to suggest that any faction in the Cabinet was understandable when one considered its

composition — old-stagers, senators and elected members.

But above and beyond these complaints. There is also the opinion, held by die hard members, that the party has lost direction and that in the absence of the political leader there seemed to be nobody to give directions and the party behaved like a headless chicken.

Another party member ventured: "In this setting there is a gut feeling that the PNM is losing its clout and the City Hall matter is the culmination of a number of distressing signs we have seen recently."

Returning to the "closed shop" theory, it was said it appeared as though democracy did not reign supreme in the party and information was not flowing freely down the line.

Chambers's leadership, all the sources spoken to emphasised, was not being challenged, and one of them elaborated:

"We are pleased with his leadership but we feel he needs our support to be a stronger leader, because a strong leader ensures a strong party and ultimately a strong government."

"In as much as I hate to say it, the fact is there is a strong view that Cabinet has hijacked the party and this we cannot allow. Up to now we as party members do not know the facts surrounding the alleged shooting of Minister Mottley."

"As ludicrous as this might sound we are embarrassed when non-party members cynically ask us what really happened and we cannot answer in an intelligent manner."

"What we want to find out is why the ministers acted as they did in the City Council fiasco, we want answers because the party has been put under a terrible strain and its image must be salvaged."

One of the 15 signatories who dared to be quoted was John Scott, the parliamentary representative for Tunapuna.

When asked if the meeting had anything to do with a revolt of backbenchers, the Parliament Secretary in the Ministry of Works emphasised:

"It has absolutely nothing to do with the hierarchy of the party. It is simply that a group of us felt a matter like that (the City Council affair) was important enough to be discussed by the General Council meeting in special session."

"We felt that by doing so we may prevent a similar situation in the future. We have no axe to grind, no arrows to point at anybody, we just want to ensure we build a better party."

But another source noted it would not be wishful thinking to state there could be a "hidden agenda" in the present situation, clearly giving credence to the statement from other PNM insider that the City Council disgrace was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Today's meeting is definitely a revolt in the PNM, but a revolt not aimed at destroying but at strengthening the organisation that has been governing the country since 1956.

With the next general election constitutionally due by February 1987, (but could be called anytime before that date), there is no doubt why the PNM must be concerned with recent developments and the damage done to the party's image.

/8309

CSO: 3298/193

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION LEADERS COMMENT ON ELECTIONS, POLICIES

Panday on NAR Strategy

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 27 Nov 85 p 64

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Basdeo Panday outlined the elections strategy of the Opposition coalition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), stressing that elections were won on polling day and at no other time.

Panday, one of the two deputy political leaders of the NAR, addressed a meeting of the Pointe-a-Pierre constituency at the East Indian Friendly Society Hall in Gasparillo on Monday night. The meeting was also addressed by political leader A.N.R. Robinson and deputy political leader Karl Hudson Phillips.

Panday said the party must set up its own election machinery on a constituency basis, because the elections were held on the basis on constitu-

encies. He told the crowd which spilled over into the road that the party must move to establish polling division committees with street captains assigned to every street, road and trace in the polling division.

The Opposition Leader said that the constituency committee should evolve out of the polling division committees. He said that the polling division committee would be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that every voter's name was on the list and that those who had died or migrated were taken off. He charged the party with establishing an elections machinery that was superior to that of the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

Panday said that the new system would prevent what he termed

"people building the party around themselves." He said in the new structure the constituency group would comprise polling division representatives, minimising the in-fighting that usually takes place at the constituency level.

Robinson on Local Government

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 85 p 64

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

DECLARING that it was "a straight case of Tobago today, Port of Spain tomorrow," A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said yesterday that "never has our proud capital city been so disgraced."

Speaking to members of the Tobago Chamber of Commerce at their year-end luncheon at the Crown Point Hotel, Robinson said that "Tobago's struggle for decentralisation of authority and local decision-making has often been dismissed as due to recalcitrance or political aberration."

But the recent levy upon the Town Hall in Port of Spain had caused "Tobago's situation to be seen in the wider perspective of adaptable political structure and sensitive and responsible government. The spectacle of the Mayor and the symbol of respecta-

bility of the capital city of Independent Trinidad and Tobago having his desk seized and his mayoral chair whipped away, to satisfy a judgment of the Supreme Court, is not merely ludicrous but revolting in the extreme," he said.

"The people of Port of Spain have been injured in the past but never so humiliated," declared Robinson.

Past injury, he went on, had been inflicted by a Colonial Secretary, but for the same reasons as it was today ... "growing centralisation and arbitrary rule." The Colonial Administration encroached more and more upon the City Council's preserves," deprived it of its sources of revenue and squeezed it financially to the extent where the council was forced in 1898 to sell the Town Hall to the Government for 5,000 (sterling) to pay its debts.

"Today, in the era of indepen-

dence, the Council has become an object of degradation and disgrace," he declared.

Robinson said that it was "significant in the extreme that in 1984, during the Tobago House of Assembly elections, it was the Mayor (of Port of Spain) who spearheaded the attack on the Assembly and sought to belittle its achievements. We heard nothing then from him of his own difficulties with the Central Government," stressed the Assembly Chairman.

"The irony is that while the Council complains of over-centralisation, the Minister complains of overwork," went on Robinson. "He deals with 20 Cabinet minutes per day and so forgets the capital city of our independent Republic in which his own Ministry is situated. To cap it all, no one wants to be held accountable for the disaster," he said.

Robinson on Private Sector

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Nov 85 p 3

[Text]

THE private sector in Tobago needs to have greater freedom and encouragement to undertake initiatives, according to ANR Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly.

"The case for decentralisation is not only valid for the public sector; it holds good for the private sector as well," he told members of the Tobago Chamber of Commerce at their year-end lunch at the Crown Reef Hotel on Wednesday.

He said he knew that some Tobago businessmen are willing to undertake the initiatives, but they depend for decision-making on their head offices in Port of Spain.

"It is time to send the signal, where necessary, that changed circumstances require changed policies and this community expects greater awareness of the needs and sensitivity to its aspirations," he told the businessmen.

"Financial institutions particularly have done well in Tobago but because

of the paucity of investment opportunities in the past have utilised the savings of the community elsewhere and, I happen to know, still continue to do so," he disclosed.

Robinson told Chamber members that real national development can only be on the basis of balanced growth. "And balanced growth can only be achieved by stimulating economic activity in every part of the nation," he stressed.

The Assembly Chairman said that the low level of private investment in Tobago, resulting from the lack of proper infrastructure, makes the island over-dependent on public expenditure. "When this dries up, economic depression is unduly severe," he said.

"Businessmen in the sister island of Trinidad must be made to understand that economic development in Tobago, sensibly planned, will open up new and wider opportunities for everyone in the nation," he said.

10 January 1986

Election Prediction

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] A.N.R. Robinson, political leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), told a large crowd at a meeting in St. Joseph on Friday night that the country must prepare itself for elections between March and November of next year.

He said there was no question of elections being held in 1987.

"In 1987," he told the cheering crowd, "the limit for the time for holding an election is February. But you can't possibly have an election in January or February before a budget. You can't have the election this year in 1985. Next year in 1986 Carnival is in February, so it can't be in February. And after February comes March, so we know that the election can't be before March, and it has to be before November of next year, so we can prepare for an election between March and November 1986."

Robinson said Prime Minister Chambers is going to try to postpone all the difficult decisions. The \$5 million debt from the POS City Council would also be postponed to next year, so as to get that into the budget for next year. There were many other examples, he said.

"Someone says the Government owes consultants \$40 million. That's chicken feed. The \$40 million will not be paid this year, as it will be taken into the budget for next year and the following year. But I will tell you one figure that you will never see. It is the figure for the lands that have been acquired from citizens all over the country over the years without compensation. The Government owes over one billion dollars for lands acquired which has not been paid. And there are numerous other types of debts that are just not being paid."

Political Low

Referring to the levy on the City Council last month, Robinson said there was no lower to go in political life in this country.

"There is no lower you can go," he said, "when the mayoral chair and desk are taken away from him, put on a truck and carted away, and when a minister is shot and they can't even talk about it."

Robinson warned NAR supporters they would have to expect the lowest form of campaigning from the PNM in the forthcoming elections.

"We've got to expect it and we've got to be prepared to deal with it," he said.

But he added the time had come to stop the rot in the country, to demonstrate a sense of nationhood, to show that the people have a sense of values. Left to the PNM, he said, Trinidad and Tobago would remain a confusion of people and not a nation.

10 January 1986

Referring to the NAR, Robinson said: "I have been given a team. My responsibility is to keep that team together and when we move into the seat of government, our responsibility will be to keep the country together as one nation."

A NAR meeting is carded for Woodford Square, Port-of-Spain, on Thursday.

Bias Toward Tobago Assembly

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 6 Dec 85 p 3

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

THE Tobago House of Assembly has been directed by the Ministry of Finance that it must restrict its 1986 expenditure to the level of its spending in 1984.

This, according to Dr. Jeff Davidson, was the latest bit of "shameless discrimination" against the Assembly by the central government using the powers of the Finance Ministry.

And those directions, complained Davidson, came to the Assembly not from the Minister of Finance, as one would have expected, but passed on through a meeting between officials

of the Ministry and the Assembly.

The Minister of Finance, he charged, had completely ignored a request from the Chairman of the Assembly, ANR Robinson, for a meeting to discuss the question of the Assembly's estimates.

That meeting of officials had taken place to discuss the Assembly's 1986 Estimates of Expenditure, totalling \$227.7 million, submitted to the Minister of Finance since June 30, in keeping with the law. Debate on the Estimates started in the Assembly last week Thursday, continued on Tuesday and Wednesday, and has been postponed to Monday.

Davidson disclosed that in 1984, the Assembly spent \$123,307,601 under Recurrent Expenditure. The revised estimates for '85 stand at \$131.2 million. "Yet, we are being asked to spend in '86 what we spent in 1984," he declared.

"How can the government expect us to spend less in 1986 than what we spent in 1985, and the same amount as we spent in 1984, when we are faced with increased costs all around?" he asked.

"And we are dealing here with recurrent or fixed expenditure," he stressed. "Are they trying to do to us what they did to Sarjeant?" he demanded.

/8309

CSO: 3298/193

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CARONI SUGAR WORKERS IMPOSE 'WORK-TO-RULE'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Nov 85 p 7

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

DAILY-PAID workers of State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited have taken a decision to embark on a work-to-rule.

The action was expected to go into effect from yesterday, throughout the company's operations.

Mr. Basdeo Panday, president general of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, said that unless the company agrees to withdraw its appeal in the wages and cost of living allowances dispute as a condition to continue further conciliatory talks on outstanding items, it would be useless to hold further discussions.

"That is the reason why I did not attend Thursday's meeting," said the union leader.

A union delegation met with the company at Sevilla House, Brechin Castle, and tried to get a clear understanding on the connection between the appeal and the current negotiations.

Mr. Sam Mahara, general secretary said he told Mr. Rennie Mohammed, personnel manager who led the company's team, the union understands that when the outstanding matters were settled, the company would withdraw its appeal.

He said Mr. Rennie indicated that the appeal had no connection with the negotiations

taking place.

The union official said that sugar workers from all sections of the company's operations were on hand to hear the outcome of the discussions.

It was then that the workers decided to take their own action and agreed on the work-to-rule action in addition to wearing red arms bands.

The action would involve ban on overtime and working within classification.

Mr. Mahara said that the union intends to pursue the appeal issue through the Labour Congress.

Last January, the company appealed the judgment of the Industrial Court which had ordered the company to pay \$147 million in increased wages and cost of living allowance. An interim measure,

pending hearing and determination of the appeal, the company, on the instruction of the court, made a certain payment to the workers.

A company official confirmed the meeting with the union's delegation, and that the company indicated that the appeal was in no way connected with the current wage negotiations.

Asked what effect, if any, the work-to-rule was having on operations, the official said that it was still too early to say.

/8309

CSO: 3298/194

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNION VOICES CONCERN OVER CLIMATE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Nov 85 p 7

[Text]

THE Oilfields Workers' Trade Union on Wednesday called on the Government to set up a meeting to discuss the industrial relations climate in State-owned or controlled enterprises.

Attending the meeting would be trade unions which bargain for the affected workers and representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Public Utilities, State Enterprises and Finance.

The call was made at a media conference held at OWTU's House of the People on Charlotte Street, Port of Spain, by Cecil Paul, second vice president of the OWTU.

Paul said that the union was particularly concerned about the industrial relations climate in the state enterprises in the country and as a result the union had called for the first time in its history, a special meeting of branch officers of these state enterprises.

The union, Paul said was also concerned about the long delays in set-

ting negotiations, the attempts to roll back benefits and the low wage offers, wage freezes and wage cuts being proposed by the state enterprises.

He said that the union condemned the failure on the part of Trintoc to commence negotiations for monthly paid workers.

The branch officers who were also present at the media briefing, called on the Government to set an example to the private sector, by applying the proposals set by the Minister of Labour for Lever Bros, to all state enterprises. In addition, they requested the Government to impose a moratorium on retrenchment.

Paul noted the unemployment rate in the country, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Office is 15 per cent. He said unemployment was increasing daily, so in order to ensure stability in the country the Government should take steps to control retrenchment.

/8309
CSO: 3298/194

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EARLY END TO DEWD FOR '85 SPARKS VIOLENT PROTEST

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

THE SEA LOTS office of the Development and Environmental Works Division (DEWD) was reduced to shambles yesterday after violence erupted on the premises. The incident, which coincided with the closure of the Division's 1985 programme, resulted in the arrest of one person after the Police were called in to restore order.

In the aftermath of the incident, the office was in disarray, with overturned furniture, broken windows and documents scattered on the floor bearing testimony to what had taken place.

Reports state that around 10.45 a.m. yesterday, more than 200 persons gathered on the compound. About 50 members of this group attempted to meet the Director of DEWD, Mr. Knolly Best, but their request was denied. Minutes later, a group of persons stormed the offices and unrest broke out.

A visibly shaken Mr. Best declined to comment on the incident.

"You could look at the office and see for yourself," he said pointedly.

The DEWD programme ended prematurely yesterday, more than a fortnight earlier than in previous years. This development has caused some concern among the more than 7,000 persons employed on the programme, and they have been demanding an additional fortnight of employment.

On Thursday representatives of the workers, the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW), made a public appeal for additional employment for the workers. The union's President General, Mr. Leslie Clifford, said the premature closure of the programme had resulted in chaos and confusion.

Scott Informed

Contacted yesterday, Parliament Secretary in the Ministry of Works with special responsibility for DEWD, Mr. John Scott, declared that "nothing except God" could change the fact that the programme had ended for the year. He said he had been informed over the phone of the incident.

Mr. Scott has repeatedly denied claims that the closure of the programme was the result of over-expenditure of its [figure indistinct] million allocation. He explained that a number of inherent expenses from 1984 and the fact that the 1985 grant was reduced by \$58 million contributed to the early curtailment.

On November 8 a number of DEWD's regular workers were asked to take vacation leave for which they qualified, and this sparked off rumours that the programme ended on that date. However, Mr. Scott later announced that the programme would officially end on November 29.

NUGFW officials were in a meeting yesterday and could not be contacted for comment on the incident. However, an informed source said that the union had not been officially informed of the development.

/8309

CSO: 3298/194

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FAVORABLE TRADE FIGURES REGISTERED SO FAR IN '85

Doubled Surplus

FL230414 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Nov 22--Trinidad and Tobago has more than doubled its visible trade balance for the first nine months of this year in comparison with the corresponding period in 1984.

Preliminary figures just released by the Central Statistical Office indicate that this country recorded a 1,051.6 million dollar (one TT dollar; 41 U.S. cents) surplus from January to September 1985 in comparison with a 498.9 million dollar surplus for the same period in the year before.

For the first nine months, Trinidad and Tobago imported 2,922.7 million dollars worth of goods and exported 3,974.3 million dollars worth (3,721.8 million dollars worth being domestic exports).

In the first nine months of 1984, imports stood at 3,357.6 million and exports at 3,856.5 million dollars.

The figures for the nine-month periods indicate two trends in imports and exports, with the country's exports on a slight rise whilst the country's import bill is decreasing more significantly.

CARICOM Totals

FL251715 Bridgetown CANA in English 2143 GMT 23 Nov 85

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Nov 23--Trinidad and Tobago recorded a TT247.1 million dollar (1 TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) trade surplus with its Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partners during the first nine months of the year, an increase of 102 per cent over the corresponding period in 1984, government statistics show.

The Central Statistical Office put the value of exports to CARICOM countries at 415.3 million dollars, compared with 168.2 million dollars in imports.

For the period January–September 1984, exports had totalled 367 million dollars and imports 248.8 million dollars.

The figures showed that Barbados and Jamaica were most affected by the cutback in imports here.

The total value of Barbadian exports to Port-of-Spain over the nine-month period was down by 30.4 million dollars, from 66.7 million dollars in 1984 to 36.3 million.

In the case of Jamaica, there was a 30 million dollar decline, with imports falling from 65.7 million dollars in 1984 to 35.6 million.

Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines were the only countries that recorded rises in exports here—Grenada posting an increase of 1.1 million dollars and St Vincent 14 million.

Trinidadian exports increased to 11 of the 13 CARICOM countries, the Bahamas being the most significant, where the value climbed to 19.1 million dollars from 3.2 million last year. Next was Barbados, where there was a 12.8 million dollar increase between the corresponding periods of 1984 and this year.

Exports to Antigua rose from 35.4 million to 44.2 million dollars, and in the case of St Kitts-Nevis, from 9.3 million to 14.5 million dollars.

There was a fall-off in exports to both Guyana and Belize. In the case of Guyana, the value was down to 121.4 million dollars from 126.4 million. For Belize, it declined from 2.1 million to 1.3 million.

6-Month Figures

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Nov 85 p 6

[Text]

DESPITE the recession, Trinidad and Tobago maintained a favourable balance of trade from January to June.

Figures released by the Central Statistical Office in its overseas trade report revealed that for June, imported goods were valued at \$254.4 million and those exported were worth \$377.6 million. This meant a favourable balance of trade of \$123.2 million.

When compared with June 1984, the figures showed decreases of \$33.4 million in imports of manufactured goods (a 29.8 per cent fall), with 15 per cent decline in machinery and transport equipment, a 62 per cent fall in crude materials and 22 per cent fall in chemicals.

For the same period, the comparisons showed increases in exports of 53 per cent for chemicals, 63 per cent for machinery and transport equipment, while exports of food and live animals declined by 54 per cent.

For the entire period the country recorded a favourable balance of trade of \$704.9 million, with total imports being \$1,835.3 million and exports were valued at \$2,540 million.

In comparison the 1984 period showed imports being valued at \$2,263 million and exports at \$2,400.9 million, which meant a favourable trade balance of only \$137.7 million.

The CSO gave as the reason for the improved balance of trade during

January to June this year as the decrease in total imports of 18.9 per cent or \$427.9 million. This was caused by decreases in imports of manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment and several other areas.

The country's principal sources of imports came from the United States which sent 38.6 per cent, the United Kingdom with 9.5 per cent, Japan with 8.8 per cent, Canada with 8.5 per cent and Brazil with 2.5 per cent.

The United States was also the main export market, taking \$1,588 million or 62.5 per cent.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNION LEADER WARNS EMPLOYERS GROUP OF TROUBLE AHEAD

Call for 'More Democracy'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Dec 85 p 18

[Article: "Weekes Warns Employers: ECA Invites Union Leader to Speak"]

[Text] **MR. GEORGE WEEKES** told employers on Tuesday that there would be a social explosion, unless there was more democracy.

The President General of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union spoke to the Employers Consultative Association at the Scarlet Ibis Room of the Trinidad Hilton.

Speaking on "Big Business and Mankind's Quest for Social and Economic Justice," he accused big business of being inimical to social and economic justice. He called for a just society where the fruit of the country's collective labour benefits the entire community. He said that there need not be poverty or injustice, with the country's natural resources and its creative, intelligent people.

BOLD STEP

ECA president W.A. Hilton Clarke, introducing the union leader, said the association made a bold and exceptional step inviting Mr. Weekes to speak. The present state of industrial relations demanded such a step. He remarked that employers knew they had to be less reactive and complacent, with their styles

and procedures now marginally adequate. They had to look for solutions.

Mr. Weekes told the employers that democracy could not be confined to holding Parliamentary elections. Nor was the country democratic because they could criticise the Prime Minister.

"If the talents of our people are to be fully realised and harnessed with the natural resources that we possess, then our people must be motivated," Mr. Weekes argued.

"And that motivation would not come about by appeals for greater productivity.

"It will occur when the people who work in industry, in the Government service, in the utilities in the teaching service etc., are totally involved in the decision-making at the work place and profit-sharing thereafter. That is the type of democracy that our country needs, if we are to achieve our objective of a just society."

This democracy, Mr. Weekes added, must be extended to the communities so that the pitfalls of bureaucracy can be avoided and become redundant. Such democracy would

ensure meaningful dialogue and avoid the "ole-talk" of powerless consultations, with which people are fed up and which gets the country nowhere.

"Real meaningful democracy at the workplace would enable workers to have some control of the process of production rather than being a cog in the wheel subject to the dictatorship of management," Mr. Weekes added.

"Decisions would then be made in the interest of all concerned rather than in the interest of those few who own or control the enterprise. Under such conditions industrial relations would necessarily take a new turn as the basis of the deep antagonism that now exists would be transformed."

EXPLOSION

Mr. Weekes noted that the official figure on unemployment was 75,000 and a prominent economist predicted for 1985-87 that 75 per cent of all school leavers would not find jobs. That was 8,000 youths each year without hope of employment.

"That situation is explosive," he said. "It is a recipe for a social explosion whether or not George Weekes agitates, whether or not the OWTU is full of Marxists, whether or not there is some Communist conspiracy. Because what the writers of such nonsense don't realise is that the people who are creating the conditions for explosion are not the militant trade unionists but those who control big business."

Anti-OWTU Moves

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Dec 85 p 5

[Article by Heather Hollingsworth: "Weekes Tells of Moves to Break OWTU"]

[Text]

IT IS being said, stated George Weekes, president of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU), last week that "the ECA and certain elements of the government have joined hands to break the OWTU."

Weekes was at the time responding to questions from the assembled members of the Employers' Consultative Association, after having addressed them. Weekes, who was accompanied at the luncheon meeting by first and second vice presidents of the union, Errol McLeod and Cecil Paul, delivered his address at the Trinidad Hilton on Wednesday.

Weekes added that it was even being said that certain companies were financing other companies where workers had taken strike action, to allow them to "hold out", and in order to weaken the OWTU and its members. They were trying, he said, to weaken the union financially.

Asked whether the OWTU would consider making compromises over wage increases, in light of the

troubled economic times, Paul's response was that the OWTU's present negotiating position was already a response to the economic situation. He said that there had been a drastic reduction, particularly in terms of actual settlement positions, on the part of the union.

Weekes also stated that the OWTU was al-

ready engaging in compromise, based on its assessment of the economic position of individual companies. He stressed, however, that in the absence of economic information from companies, it was often difficult to determine the need for compromise.

As an example of the vagaries of companies, he then cited the example of Caribbean Packaging Industries, where the company made a settlement of 22 per cent for its monthly-paid workers but refused its hourly and weekly-rated workers a similar increase, offering 0 per cent then

10 per cent.

Asked whether he felt that the balance of power had swung against the OWTU, so that it had no choice but to compromise, Paul replied: "If we wanted to change the balance of power, we could change it, but we not fighting any war. We not on that head."

McLeod stressed that the union's biggest problem in industrial relations has been the lack of trust and good faith between employer and union. "Every employer," he accused, "is using the downturn as a scapegoat not to meet reasonable demands."

/12851

CSO: 3298/221

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PAPER SEES MERIT IN U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON DIVESTMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Dec 85 p 8

[Editorial: "George to George"]

[Excerpts] When Prime Minister George Chambers delivers his Budget Speech later this month it may contain the results of his attendance at the annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and his Jamaica visit late last month.

In Miami Mr. Chambers is said to have stated this country's position clearly and plainly, and most important, got together with United States Vice President George Bush. It is good that the two were able to talk and exchange views and further cement relations severely ruffled by the unfortunate incidents surrounding the invasion of Grenada.

Mr. Bush made some comments that bear listening to, with one general point being the need for governments in the region to get in shape for the export thrust made possible in the U.S. market by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). They must get in shape to export anywhere, not only to North America.

Next, Mr. Bush spoke out against excessive regulation in the form of licenses and permits, which could cause lengthy delays. He thought that every country in the region had a one

stop permitting agency for foreign investors and wanted them made more effective.

He didn't know we have no such agency, much less one that is simple and effective. But Mr. Chambers knows we need one, and so does every entrepreneur locally.

We hope Mr. Chambers does not have to let Mr. Bush remind him of the folly of "enormous charges for loading and unloading ships", and inefficient customs methods. Local businessmen have long been doing that.

Finally, Mr. Bush advised against the path of extensive state ownership of enterprises, a strategy which has proven to be a failure. Britain and France are now selling out as fast as they can, a useful lesson for Mr. Chambers.

Mr. Bush has made some excellent, sensible points, but they are hardly original. Our Government has been resisting these very suggestions from nationals for far too long. It is time to stop resisting the inevitable, and when the inevitable is also the desirable, such a surrender can be sweet indeed.

/12851
CSO: 3298/221

10 January 1986

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TEXT OF ROBINSON SPEECH TO TRINIDAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 8 Dec 85 pp 5B, 12B

[Address by A.N.R. Robinson to the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce; date and place not specified]

[Text] IT IS significant in the extreme that in 1984, during the Tobago House of Assembly elections, it was the Mayor of Port-of-Spain who spearheaded the attack on the Tobago House of Assembly and sought to belittle its achievements. We heard nothing then from him of his own difficulties with the central government. So said A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, and political leader of the Opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction, in a speech to the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce recently. Robinson recalled that the Port-of-Spain City Council was the first public body in Trinidad to engage the colonial administration in combat. The issue was the same as today — growing centralisation and arbitrary rule. The SUNDAY GUARDIAN today publishes this speech:

I WAS very pleased to accept your invitation to be your luncheon guest and to address you. I have chosen the subject "Decentralisation and Responsibility in Government". I have no doubt that you will at once appreciate the relevance of this topic to the situation in Trinidad and Tobago today.

You will no doubt remember that earlier this year I addressed the Southern Chamber of Industry and Commerce on the subject: "Technology and Development." I later addressed the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber on "The Politics of Transformation."

"Decentralisation and Responsibility in Government" is really a continuation and elaboration of the theme "The Politics of Transformation."

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

My thesis today is that structural adjustment and economic transformation cannot be achieved in a political vacuum. Essential for the

process of economic transformation in a developing country is transformation of the political structure and of the political culture. And here the key is decentralisation of authority and the acceptance of responsibility in government.

We in Trinidad and Tobago should have learnt this lesson long ago. It is the lesson of two imperialisms of which we have been a part — the Spanish and British imperial system.

Decentralisation does not mean anarchy or fragmentation. It means ensuring that the political structure is sensitive and adaptable to local and regional needs and aspirations.

Decentralisation can express itself in numerous forms, e.g. confederation, federation, devolution in varying degrees within a unitary state or a system of local government.

In all of these situations demarcation of functions must be such as to admit of a clear allocation of responsibility.

In Trinidad and Tobago today and during the past decade our failure has not only been financial and economic, that is to say, our astounding inability to make effective use of the vast resources which have come our way during the oil bonanza. Our failure has also been political. In this respect it has been the failure of our political directorate to decentralise and to allocate and accept responsibility for the conduct of the nation's business.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Port-of-Spain and Tobago, poles apart from a national perspective, are cases in point. Port-of-Spain the capital city is at the centre of administration. It is the seat of all the ministries and the residence of the Prime Minister, the President and the mayor. While Port-of-Spain is at the centre, Tobago is at the periphery. No minister resides in Tobago, though the Prime Minister himself has at one time threatened to do so.

Tobago's struggle for decentralisation of authority and local decision-making has often been dismissed as due to recalcitrance or political aberration. Only within recent times has the island's situation begun to be seen in the wider perspective of adaptable political structure and sensitive and responsible government.

It is a straight case of Tobago today, Port-of-Spain tomorrow. Never has our proud capital

city been so disgraced as within recent times.

The spectacle of the mayor and symbol of respectability of the capital city of independent Trinidad and Tobago having his desk seized and his mayoral chair whipped away and loaded with other office furnishings onto trucks and carted away for failure to satisfy a judgment of the Supreme Court is not merely ludicrous but revolting in the extreme.

The people of Port-of-Spain have been injured before but never so humiliated.

In fact when a Colonial Secretary attempted to humiliate Port-of-Spain nearly a century ago in 1898, the city produced its heroes who stood up against the Colonial Secretary and heroically defied both him and his imperial system.

In that year, 1898, Port-of-Spain suffered a gross injustice at the hands of British Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain. It is significant that the colour has changed, the names have changed, but the essentially colonial structure and attitudes remain the same.

SPANISH INSTITUTION

The Port-of-Spain City Council is the descendant of a historic Spanish institution, the Cabildo. Under British colonial administration, Cabildo was converted into Town Council which became Trinidad's first representative institution. The Town Council, later City Council, has thrown up a number of famous names in Trinidad and Tobago's history — Sir Henry Alcazar, Luis Prada, Muzumbo Lazaar, Arthur Andrew Cipriani, Henry Hudson-Phillips, H.O.B. Wooding, to name a few. The Port-of-Spain City Council was the first public body in Trinidad to engage the colonial administration in combat.

The issue was the same as today — growing centralisation and arbitrary rule. The colonial administration encroached more and more upon the City Council's preserves, deprived it of its sources of revenue and squeezed it financially to the extent where the council was forced in 1896 to sell the Town Hall to the Government for 5,000 pounds in order to pay its debts — most of them to the very colonial Government.

Thereafter the council was directed to submit its budget to the Governor for approval and positively refused to do so on the ground that it was an insult to the population of Trinidad and Tobago to treat its only elected body in this manner.

Secretary of State for the Colonies Joseph Chamberlain threatened to abolish the council but the council was in no way intimidated. The council took its stand on democratic principle and in defence of the interests of the population of Trinidad and Tobago. It defied the Secretary of State to the last and rallied the people of Port-of-Spain to its defence.

It was abolished by dictatorial decree but, by its heroic struggle, left a glorious landmark in the history of Trinidad and Tobago. By 1914 it was the mighty colonial administration that was forced to bow to the wishes of the people of Trinidad and restore the council to Port-of-Spain.

The council in those days under the colonial administration was in the forefront of the struggle for democracy and for recognition of the human dignity of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Today in the era of independence the council has become an object of degradation and disgrace.

It is significant in the extreme that in 1984, during the Tobago House of Assembly elections,

it was the Mayor of Port-of-Spain who spearheaded the attack on the Tobago House of Assembly and sought to belittle its achievements. We heard nothing then from him of his own difficulties with the central government.

OVER-CENTRALISATION

The irony is that while the council complains of over-centralisation, the minister complains of overwork. He deals with 20 Cabinet minutes per day and so forgets the capital city of our independent republic in which his own ministry is situated. To cap it all, no one wants to be held accountable for the disaster.

Nothing illustrates better the nature of the system of government by which we are ruled — over-centralisation, bureaucratic inefficiency, lack of accountability and inevitably corruption with its excessive costs to the population.

It is not surprising in the least that it is a Tobago House of Assembly that has exposed to the full the bankruptcy of the Government's policies toward Tobago.

By now everyone has come to recognise that, by Caribbean standards, this island possesses great potential for development and can be a most valuable economic asset to our twin-island nation — a jewel in every sense of the word just begging to have its value appreciated.

Within the short space of four years a Tobago House of Assembly has shown that this island can be transformed from the most underdeveloped in the Caribbean to one of the most thriving and prosperous. The cost-overrun alone on the Financial Complex or the Hall of Justice or the Mt. Hope Medical Complex or the money thrown away on the aborted Racing Complex was all that Tobago needed to provide the island with an international airport and a deep water harbour to set the stage for a massive injection of private investment on the island.

Once these basic infrastructural projects are underway, accompanied by a sensible plan of tourism development with linkages in agriculture, small-scale industrial enterprise and stimulation of the arts and crafts, a whole stream of economic activities can be generated on the island, making it a most attractive place for businesses of many kinds.

In addition, Tobago's unsurpassed environment can make it a mecca for healthy recreational and sporting activities both on land and sea. Why then does a political directorate which professes to be development-oriented not concentrate its energies on promoting and facilitating genuine development rather than utilising reams of paper, typewriters, clerks, office space, several professionals and ministers to decide where to build a community centre or pit latrine in Moruga, St. Andrew, St. David or Parlatuvier in Tobago.

What should now be clear to all our citizens is, the utter bankruptcy of a policy that rejects decentralisation on the one hand and accountability on the other.

The Tobago House of Assembly has over the past four years exercised infinite patience and restraint in its dealings with agents of the central government. Its achievements have been in the face of tremendous odds.

PRINCIPAL MECHANISMS

The Assembly has no power over its staff. After five years the Tobago House of Assembly

Fund, one of the principal mechanisms required by law for the control by the Assembly over its finances, has not been established. Functions such as education and health which are by law the responsibility of the Assembly have not yet been handed over.

The central government continually encroaches even on those areas which have been handed over to the Assembly, such as culture, works, community development. Disloyalty and downright subversion against the Assembly is encouraged among public servants employed with the Assembly and over whom the Assembly has no control.

Efforts are continually made by agents of the central government to frustrate programmes of the Assembly or duplicate them in a most wasteful manner. Our attempts at promoting pride and productivity are continually eroded by central government intervention. Budgetary allocations are ignored and finances disbursed in a most arbitrary and whimsical manner.

I can say that had it not been for the determined and dedicated efforts of members of the House of Assembly, the whole structure would have collapsed or the Assembly reduced to a spineless and subservient agent of the central government.

Our creation of the office of "secretary" has been one of our most important innovations. A secretary is a member of the Assembly to whom responsibility for particular subjects is assigned. Thus there is a secretary for works and water, a secretary for education and culture, one for sport and youth affairs, another for health and sanitation, one for agriculture, lands and fisheries. I as Chairman have special responsibility for legal affairs, finance, economic planning, programming and development, tourism and the utilities with the exception of water. You will remember that this system was wrongly criticised at ministerial level when it was first introduced.

All of these secretaries deserve the highest commendation for applying themselves full time to their tasks without remuneration. It is this system of secretaries with specific areas of responsibility that has been mainly responsible for what we have been able to achieve in the Assembly to date.

The most important achievement of the Assembly to date has been the psychological revolution that has taken place on the island. Whereas previously the feeling had been that there was no hope of development, today the feeling is the sky is the limit for Tobago's development. While previously the general view was Tobago had no future, there is now growing excitement over the possibilities of the island's future. Tobago was notorious for having the worst roads in the Caribbean. Not only residents but visitors express great surprise at vast improvement in the road system on the island.

You may not know it but for the past three years we have been engaged in a serious struggle against the *aedes aegypti* mosquito, the carrier of typhoid and dengue fever. We have kept the pest under control but only as a result of the utmost diligence exercised by the Assembly under the supervision of the secretary for health and by my own personal intervention when the matter assumed emergency dimensions. I need not mention the consequences for our health and the tourism industry if this matter were to get out of hand.

We have so far managed to keep it under

control with assistance from the health authorities in Trinidad. However, only a week ago we received information that 140 of our health and sanitation workers had been laid off for lack of funds.

Can you imagine it, ladies and gentlemen? The House of Assembly is responsible for the *aedes aegypti* and sanitation programmes. The Assembly pays the work force engaged on the programmes and pays the staff who are members of the public service. Yet 140 workers are laid off in this extremely sensitive area without the authority of the Assembly and without even a single word to us on the matter. It is from the laid-off workers that we get the information.

This happened in spite of several instructions to staff that workers must not be laid off nor projects interrupted without the knowledge and approval of the Assembly. On numerous occasions we have been told that staff has done one thing or the other on the instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

In fact we are satisfied that it was the gun that was aimed at the Tobago House of Assembly that shot the Mayor of Port-of-Spain.

REVISION OF PROGRAMMES

You will be interested to know that according to the latest figures received, of the sum of \$62 million allocated by Parliament for development expenditure in 1985, we have up to the eleventh month of the year received just one-half — a paltry \$31 million. The staff has reported that releases for work to be executed in the third quarter had not yet even begun to arrive at the commencement of the fourth quarter — and this without any warning or any word of explanation.

It may well be that the Government does not have the money. But why not say this and in good time so that revision of programmes and rearrangement of priorities can take place in a rational manner?

As you are all well aware, the low level of private investment in Tobago resulting from the lack of proper infrastructure makes the island over-dependent on public expenditure. When this dries up, economic depression is unduly severe.

A recent clear example of the way in which infrastructure development can open up opportunities for investment in the private sector is the new terminal building at Crown Point Airport which provides facilities for restaurant, snack bar, gift shops and so on.

Tobago investors employing the financial and human resources available in the community, and they are available, could and should enter this service sector of the economy undertaking new investment and generating new income streams which not only enhance development of the national economy but would also reduce the dependence of the Tobago community on public sector employment.

If local expertise may not be available to the same extent as local experience, then partnerships with investors having the expertise would be an obvious alternative, but if development means anything it means the fullest utilisation of available resources and that must include the savings and investment potential of the community.

The case for decentralisation is not only valid for the public sector, it holds good for the private sector as well. The private sector in

Tobago needs to have greater freedom and encouragement to undertake initiatives. I know that some of you are willing to undertake these initiatives but depend for decision-making on your head offices in Port-of-Spain.

It is time to send the signal, where necessary, that changed circumstances require changed policies and that this community expects greater awareness of the needs and sensitivity to its aspirations. Financial institutions particularly have done well in Tobago but because of the paucity of investment opportunities in the past have utilised the savings of the community elsewhere and, I happen to know, still continue to do so.

What we are talking about is national development in the real sense of the word. Real national development can only be on the basis of balance growth. And balanced growth can only be achieved by stimulating economic activity in every part of the nation.

I wish to assure you of my own personal commitment to the role of the private sector in our national life. I have no doubt whatever that it is in the interest of the nation that private initiative and enterprise should be encouraged.

DEVELOPMENT MODEL

We in Trinidad and Tobago have had and continue to have a wonderful opportunity to fashion a development model in the Caribbean that can satisfy the needs and meet the aspirations of large and small communities. It is a pity that we failed to do so at a time when we had all the means at our disposal. It would be an enormous tragedy if we failed to learn from the extraordinary experience of the past ten years.

Businessmen in the sister isle of Trinidad must be made to understand that economic development in Tobago, sensibly planned, will open up new and wider opportunities for everyone in the nation. It makes no sense therefore to oppose the kind of infrastructural facilities that are essential for the island's development. These facilities can, in fact, even at this late hour and in these stringent financial circumstances, be provided. I happen to know that, so far as adequate air and sea communications are concerned, money is still not the problem.

The real problem is national will, national commitment and a sense of national purpose. These today are conspicuously lacking. There is no doubt that on the basis of past experience, most of us now know what needs to be done. Let us have the moral courage to do it.

/12851

CSO: 3298/221

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY TO UK--Retired Central Bank Governor, Mr. Victor Bruce, has been appointed this country's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom according to unconfirmed reports. Mr. Bruce replaces Mr. Frank Abdullah who retired home earlier this year to assume the post of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. The former Central Bank Governor was tipped since in August to succeed Mr. Abdullah. The GUARDIAN failed to contact Mr. Bruce yesterday at his Federation Park home to confirm the appointment while information officers attached to the ministry were not available for comment. But a usually reliable source told the GUARDIAN that Mr. Bruce was in fact appointed. Mr. Bruce, 65, retired on September 5, 1985, from the Central Bank as Governor--a position he held since 1969. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics and holds a B.Sc. degree. He joined the Public Service in 1942 and moved through the ranks, initially as clerk than as statistician a training officer, and as Director of Personnel Administration. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 85 p 1] /8309

LOAN FOR UK EXPORTS--Port-of-Spain, Nov 22--Financial arrangements are to be settled early in 1986 on a U.S. 25 million dollar loan to the Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank from British investors, according to the latest official GAZETTE published here. The GAZETTE said the Trinidad Government this month signed a guarantee for the loan, which is to finance local imports from the United Kingdom. According to the GAZETTE, Prime Minister George Chambers, as minister of finance, also made an order making the payment of the principal, interest and other debt charges payable under the agreement exempt from taxes. Preliminary arrangements for the loan, signed May 20, 1985, are contained in a legal supplement to the GAZETTE dated November 21. The agreement is between the Central Bank and British Bankers Morgan Grenfell and Company Limited, and a number of other financial institutions backed by the British Government's Export Credit Guarantee Department. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 23 Nov 85 FL] /8309

UNION UNITY--At the reconvened unity talks between the Council of Progressive Trade Unions and the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, the two groups decided to convene a meeting to work out the precise format that unity in the trade union movement should take. Cecil Paul, president of the CPTU said that at the talks held on Tuesday, at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade

Union headquarters on Wrightson Road, it was agreed that six representatives of the unions affiliated to both organisations, together with four representatives of the non-affiliated unions would meet at a date to be fixed. This meeting, he said, would have to work out the degree of cohesiveness of the unity--whether there should merely be discussions before decisions are taken on issues, whether there should be joint delegations at meetings, or whether there should be one umbrella organisation. The agenda for meeting is being drawn up. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Nov 85 p 7] /8309

PNM ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN--External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir announced plans by the San Fernando West Constituency of the ruling Peoples' National Movement to launch a massive campaign to eradicate the drug problem in the country. Mahabir addressed the formal opening of the new San Fernando West Constituency office at Broadway in San Fernando. Mahabir is the Parliamentary Representative for the area. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Byron Carrington. The minister said that the drug alert programme would be worked out by a committee of the constituency and put into operation next year. He said the constituency was committed to assist in building the St Paul's Anglican Church parish hall at Harris Promenade and would be pursuing this project next year. Mahabir told the packed auditorium at the constituency office that while many people had been preoccupied with the marginal issues there were many more fundamental problems facing the country. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Nov 85 p 3] /8309

CSO: 3298/195

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

28 January 1986

